

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



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MAY, 2018

President's Riffle

I'm continually amazed at the amount of effort our Board Members and Committee Members and members in general put in to the WFFC for the good of the order. 2018 stands out in my mind in particular as we have shifted gears in several key areas such as Youth, Education, Conservation and Outings with barely a hiccup.



Trevor Bennet, new to the club in 2017, stepped up to lead the Youth Committee and has already established a key relationship with the Gold Star Youth Program. We can all be proud of the effort Trevor and his team of member volunteers are making as they teach the joy of fly fishing to the children of military men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country.

During this same time frame, Chuck Ballard, a member since the flood (word is he did some fishing from the ark) who has filled just about every position in the club at one time or another has stepped up once again to lead the development of a beginning fly fishing class that will have a dry run at Treasurer Jim Goedhart's home later this week. Chuck, Jim and the usual suspects will aid in conducting this class.

Meanwhile member and worlds greatest fly tier Bob Burdick stepped up to organize some member outing hosts to allow our long serving Outings Chair, Dave Schorsch, the odd weekend off.

These folks all volunteer in order to make our club better. Along the way they will tell you comes deep

satisfaction in contributing to the betterment of our sport. If you have been thinking of getting involved with the club at a deeper level I have great news for you! Two key committee chairmanships have recently become available. We are looking for a new leader for both the Education Committee and the Conservation Committee. Both prior leaders served with distinction for many years and left their respective committees fully staffed and ready to move forward. Descriptions of the work of these committees can be found in our By-Laws and Operating Procedures. Both chairmanships are president appointed positions.

Please get in touch with me if you think either one of these positions might be right for you so that we can discuss the commitment and expectations in detail. Whether you are a new member or have been a member for years you can volunteer for either of these slots knowing that you have very knowledgeable committee members already in place who will be happy to help you get started. You can shoot me a note at jgraven-dyk@gmail.com or give me a call at 425-615-0356.

Can't wait to hear from you!

John

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Book Reviews

By Michael Wearne

Cutthroat by Michael Graybrook

Michael Graybrook is a compulsive collector. For this we can all be grateful. Michael Graybrook collects species of native cutthroat trout. He has published a book which describes his tour around the American west, tracking down and photographing each species.

This book focuses on Coastal cutthroat, Westslope cutthroat, Lahontan cutthroat, Humboldt cutthroat, High Desert cutthroat, Paiute cutthroat, Yellowstone cutthroat, Snake River fine spotted cutthroat, Bonneville cutthroat, Greenback cutthroat, Rio Grande cutthroat, Rio Grande cutthroat (Pecos Strain), and Colorado cutthroat.

In this book you get everything, the dust, the heat, exactly where he searched. In the section on Yellowstone cutthroat the author finds himself thirty yards away from a grizzly. This narrative is blood chilling to say the least. Other sections are humorous, thoughtful and just plain fun.

The photography is exquisite. There is even a photo of the author photographing trout. In most of his trips, his wife Donna joined him.

I bought my copy directly from the publisher, Scott & Nix, in New York City. I have yet to see this book in any bookstore. You can preview the book on the Scott & Nix website.

The author is a Pennsylvania architect. After some of the adventures he describe, I am sure he is in Missouri before his heartrate is back to normal.

This book is a masterpiece, in production quality, photography and in the story.

Upstream by Langdon Cook

At the close of her presentation at the April membership meeting, Lynda Mapes went off topic and spoke about the individual effort each of us as indi-

viduals must make in our lifestyle to be “good stewards” of our environment. This is a complicated and on-going effort to make the proper choice in our effort to support the natural environment, particularly that aspect of the environment that relates to fish and fishing.

The complicated nature of our impact on fish is nowhere more thoughtfully illustrated than in Langdon Cook’s new book, *Upstream*. This Seattle native has thoroughly examined the salmon fishing industry and culture in this new book. The beauty of this book is that most of the story is focused in our backyard. Cook devotes individual chapters to such iconic locations as The Steelhead Diner in the Pike Place Market, the reef netters of Lummi Island, Cordova Alaska’s commercial fishing industry, and a visit to a fish hatchery at Red Fish Lake, Idaho.

Each of the chapter stand-alone as an individual story, the combination of the chapters in one book begin to explain why the story of salmon in the Pacific Northwest is such a complicated narrative.

This book is wonderfully crafted. The author seems to have the unique ability to be able to take the reader into the thick of the experience, and share every moment of the wild ride. If you enjoy the writing of John McPhee or Simon Winchester, this book will bring you a sense of joy and frustration. I found when I had completed the book, I wanted to start all over at the beginning, and reread the book from start to finish.

Creel Notes

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Club members prepare a massed assault on the beaches of Hannan Lake

On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

Mike Mosczynski opened up the meeting with a bang and then a tour around the room trolling for guests, many of whom were bunched up in the good water of the WFFC monthly meeting. Nice metaphor? Yeah baby. We heard a few long winded self introductions, a chorus of “happy birthday,” a report on the recent state of hockey, and a repeat.

Without a pause, we segued into fishing reports, starting with a Mike Wearne solo club trip to Nuwatzel. He would have liked to have company, but you didn’t show. So he caught all of the big “hogs” in the lake with your name on them and then targeted the meat brigade at the ramp. Hugh Clark got a cold, wet, and wild trip with his teenage grandson. Schorsch discussed Steelhead on Oregon rivers near Doug Shaad’s cabin. Ron Little, on this trip, took a rod breaking tumble down the river. Dave also got in action at Dry Falls, describing



something akin to hog heaven. Gary Bergquist did some northern steelhead fishing on Prince of Whales Is., including a 31” buck. Bob Burdick added a few notes about terrain.

At this point, I have to brag. We’ve had two meetings in row without chicken. Tonight’s dinner was tremendous. Last month’s salmon, good. No chicken, no chicken!

I relayed stories on a couple days on the Yakima, one wading and one with a guided drift. I caught the hog. Others caught the numbers. Chuck found some winter fish on Moses Lake. And The Hawk bought a boat.

From there, always the highlight of every meeting, Gil Nyerges inducted , Jim Beck with the usual admonition and gift of “better flies”. He also caught up with Dustin Long who got inducted last meeting. Like the RCMP, he always gets his man (and woman!).

From there we got some animated committee reports, including a full review of trips to come. The Cooper lake, with Tovar’s cabin in the mix, will be a special trip. Stay tuned for details. The usual call for articles for our Creel Notes was repeated with feeble attempts of humor, and Bob implored us to clean off the tables of free fly tying equipment.

After a few words more about Lake Hannan, Mike introduced our speaker, Lynda Maples, the Seattle Times news writer who caught the story on farm fish releases. She started off with a feel good note about how much club members mean to the general state and health of our fine environment. With that positive moment gone, she passed on some of-the-minute news of the whereabouts of all the Atlantic Salmon who should be dad by now: One of the was caught migrating up with Skagit. In other bad news, the Judge Martinez ruling that support restoration of salmon habitat as a treaty right is up for review at the Supreme Court. For example, this case encourages repair of culverts to make way for salmon. The pushback states that the Boldt decision to honor treaty rights does not expect

sustainable salmon habitat, only a split of what gets to the oceans. History is being made as we feast at the STC.

Back to the Atlantic Net Pen Disaster. Last August, net pens near Cypress Island from Cook Aquaculture’s fish farm experienced net failure in a very delicate environment. A multi-billion dollar Canadian operation, Cook bought some poor condition aquaculture pens for a quick plant and harvest. Early warning signs were ignored and early last August failure occurred. Within hours, local anglers started seeing these invaders on their hooks, in their nets, and swimming around their boats. Initially reported (a few days late) as a small commercial loss, the truth eventually emerged. Hundreds of thousands of “mutants”, as the Lummi Nation call them, escaped. Anglers were invited to fish at will for fish that don’t know how to hunt. Eventually the Lummi called for an emergency net fishery to haul in these 10 lbs. meat blobs. We still don’t know how effective they were, but indications are grim.

Cook Aquaculture, of Eastern Canada, played it off like a small, fixable problem. They had no idea who they were dealing with according to Maple’s: the true believers of Pacific Salmon of all stripes, the sacred totem animal of the NW, the life blood of several native tribes. Cook tried some underhanded tricks to under play, buy off, or silence all the players. Instead our tribes, our salmon advocates, and most importantly, our state representatives, launched an investigation and stated talking about banning salmon aquaculture.

Isn’t there a better way to raise meat in the ocean. Well, the net that filed had 110 tons of growth clinging to the cable. A good tide ripped in apart and the nets sunk like a stone. Once discovered, engineers were called, and within days, leases were terminated. More inspections meant more closures, leading to more law suits to fight lease termination.

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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 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.

Gold Star Fishing

by Bob Young

On April 28th the WFFC in partnership with a non-profit organization, The Unquiet Professional, (TUP) teamed up to honor military families and to do something special for their Gold Star Kids who have lost a family member in active military duty - teach them the basics of fly fishing. WFFC member volunteers rallied for the event to provide group and one-on-one fly fishing instruction for the kids and their mentors followed by an afternoon of fishing on American Lake on Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The event received generous sponsorship from Panera Bread Company, who provided coffee and pastries, and Bistro BBQ who provided BBQ sandwiches for lunch. Red's Fly Shop in Ellensburg provided care packages for the kids complete with a box of flies and stickers.

Connection with the Gold Star youngsters was coordinated by Trevor Bennett, WFFC Youth Program Chair and Krista Simpson of the TUP which is described below.

“SSG Michael H. Simpson was known affectionately as “the Unquiet Professional” by his company and team for proudly announcing himself as a Green Beret when most Green Berets work mostly in secret and unrecognized. While deployed with C Company, 4th BN, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) Simpson sustained injuries on 26 April 2013 from an IED attack and succumbed to those injuries on 1 May 2013. Originally born out of sorrow and gratitude our mission was to give back to the military community that was so generous to the Simpson family in the immediate wake of SSG Simpson’s passing.

In the beginning, simply stated, we wanted to help those who helped the Simpson family. We immediately began fundraising for military and military related organizations such as The Green Beret Foundation, Special Ops Warrior Foundation, USO and wear blue: run-to-remember. We continue to support these exceptional organizations; however, as we became acquainted with the military related nonprofit community we recognized there were gaps in the landscape. One need in particular, awareness, support and empowering of Gold Star Families, quickly became near and dear to our organization’s heart. As a result, The Unquiet Professional (TUP) began focusing on awareness and support of Gold Star families. We have since launched several programs and continue to work on initiatives to support our Nation’s Gold Star Families and Veterans.”

The day did not start with fly rods in hand. Club volunteers, including myself, Trevor, Jim McRoberts, Dick Brening, James Goedhart, Neil Hoffberg, Mike Wearne and Chuck Ballard met Saturday morning at Powderworks Park in DuPont, WA for the Circle of Remembrance Ceremony where nearly 90 people gathered to remember loved ones. From there a dozen or so kids, mostly ages 11 to 14, along with their mentors and WFFC volunteers headed over to Shoreline Park on American Lake. We had a large covered picnic shelter which provided refuge from the usual rain. We provided instruction on assembly of equipment and as the weather eased off we had time and space to introduce fly casting to the kids. Then lunch was served. There were some usual snacks like chips and cookies but the highlight was nice warm BBQ’ed pork sandwiches. After lunch it was time to hit the water. There was some open beach and two very large fishing docks. All the kids got to cast and retrieve flies. Unfortunately, that was all as the fish were

uncooperative. They never lost their enthusiasm though. And I am sure they will be back at the next opportunity.

The participating club members all found this a terrific and heartwarming outing. Here is what our club members had to say:

“Bob, not only was it a great event for the kids, it was also a very moving emotional remembrance of those who have died fighting to protect our freedom.” Jim Goedhart

Neil: “When I look back on the day the word that comes to mind is inspiring. I cannot imagine what my childhood would have been like without my father. Yet this group of kids goofed off, ran around and were



The crew assembles for lunch at American Lake near JBLM



Crista Simpson-Anderson, the founder of the non-profit “The Unquiet Professional” which provides healthy activities for kids who have lost parents and co-sponsor of today’s event standing with Perry Dolan, who lost his father in 1944 and joined the event as a volunteer.

having just as much fun as any other children on any other playground. Their aliveness showed me how important and beneficial a good support group is. Parents, mentors and kids were together like one big extended family. There was a tangible peacefulness to the day that was very rewarding to all. Kids and fly fishing. The human spirit shines bright.”

Jim Mc: “From twelve years working with the adult vets who have participated in these wars in which the kids lost a parent, we know how much the help we give means to the adults. It was evident these kids were fully into our program. They were eager and attentive. Their sponsors likewise. I think we should continue to support this effort with full club support. I suggest we take them to <http://www.oldmcdebbiesfarm.net/> . This used to be Jim’s U Fish and I have taken the vets there in the past. It is stocked with eager fish!!”

Dick B.: “I found this to be a very rewarding event to participate in. The adults were great and the kids were into it. It was wonderful to do something that was really appreciated. These kids and their families deserve to be helped in any way that we can. Trevor and Chuck should be proud of arranging such a good event for our WFFC. It fit well with our club’s goals and objectives. I would certainly do it again.”

Chuck: “From my prospective we couldn’t have had a better group. The adult sponsors were great, the kids were interested until the “fish-

ing “ The fish were not interested in feeding.

It was a very moving experience given these were children who had lost a parent in the current wars. Earlier in the day we participated in a ceremony honoring these fallen hero’s that was very moving. We were treated with hats and plenty of food donated to the Gold Star kids organization. We need to do this again for sure and try to find a place where the fish cooperate!”

Mike Wearne seemed to have thoroughly enjoyable outing. He undertook to work with a ten year old named Bryce. Bryce apparently took to it like a duck to water. Mike notes that “Although he was ten years old, he immediately picked up the skill of fly casting. He latched on to the “10:00 & 2:00” concept and was sending line out thirty feet automatically. I showed him a selection of fly boxes that I had brought to the event. We selected a bead head wooly buggler to use on the pier. We were unsuccessful in attracting any fish. Bryce enjoyed watching the fly move through the water as he retrieved it. Bryce, although initially quiet, was soon telling me about his school, summer vacations, and his baseball practice later in the day. He asked thoughtful questions, and really seemed to enjoy the Zen of being on a lake, attempting to fool fish. Mentoring Bryce was a joy and privilege.”

I certainly agree with all that has been said about this activity. The whole event ran very smoothly, and I feel we owe a lot to Trevor and Chuck for establishing this connection to an exceptional program in support of our military community.



Chuck Ballard helps a young angler hook up.

Fishing Reports

Leland Lake May 5, 2018

Leland lake has been on my “must check out” list for two years now, and I finally managed it last Saturday. The lake is in Jefferson county, across the Hood Canal bridge by about 25 minutes. Just head toward Port Angeles, turn south on 101. It’s about 4.5 miles north of Quilcene, on the right.

The lake is mostly undeveloped, long and narrow, with a boat launch and nice little campground across the road. It is managed by Jefferson county and the WDFW. The water quality is excellent, with lots of weeds and structure.

The lake is heavily stocked in the spring with put and take rainbows, and later in the year with “jumbos” to promote a fall and winter fishery. From what I saw, a lot of those fish survive and prosper! I caught the recent plants by the dozen, caught several nice trout that appeared to be from fry plants (nice full fins, and bigger) and two 18 inch fish that were chrome bright and strong! The latter I suspect to be hold-over fry plants that grew in the lake. Really terrific fishing for the west side, and a quality experience! In addition, whenever I got tight to the shoreline weeds or lilly pads, there were crappie and yellow perch on the fly. That is also where I found those 18 inchers!

I would highly recommend a trip to Leland soon! The fishing is great right now, and the scenery is pretty great too! Tight lines!

Dave Schorsch

Cold on The Yakima 4/13

Grandson Oscar, age 12, and I drove through snow and rain over Snoqualmie Pass to the South Cle Elum Rail Depot to meet our guide. He had his drift boat in the river. Temperature 36 degrees, raining, flow rate around 3200 cfs. I am thinking ...bail, coffee, hot chocolate, english

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muffin, strawberry jam! “Oscar, do you really want to go fishing?”

“Oooh yeah, Da!” Full on rain and cold weather gear, off we go. Guide Keith explains to Oscar in the front seat how to fish with bobber, large nymph, then split shot, then terminal San Juan worm. Guaranteed to tangle.

“Forget every thing your grand father taught you about how to cast a tight loop. Today you are going to do a lob cast. You want a Big loop on your back and forward cast to keep your terminal tackle away from the line”. Oscar is a pretty quick study and got right on it. Just two tangles by 4:30 pm. Oscar got a 15 inch fish, and I landed a 18 inch fish. Later he caught a 20 inch fish, and between us several more fish around 12 inches. Never a word of complaint from the youngster as we fished almost the entire day in the rain, temperature in the high 30s.

Hugh Clark

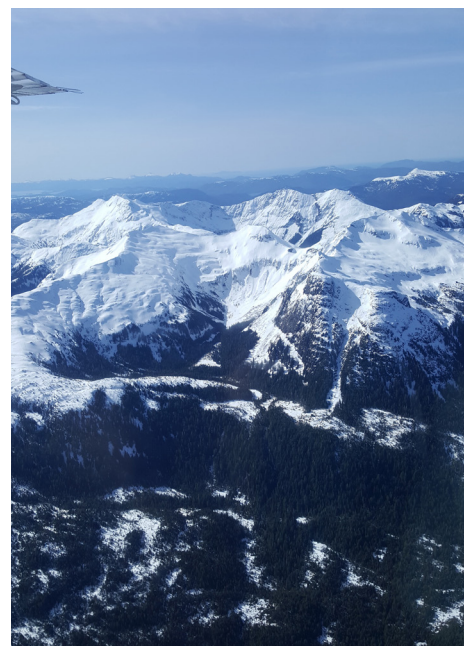
Ketchikan, Prince of Wales Island, and the Thorn River (April 1-7)

This last week we embarked on a long planned trip to this remote island just West of Ketchikan to intercept a spring run of steelhead on the many rivers and creeks that drain the spine of the snow capped mountains that divide this island into East and West sides. Lodging at the Fireweed Inn at Klawock we were guided each day by the Renton father and son team, home based in Bend, Oregon, who ushered us in their vehicles onto the

best rivers and runs each day depending on the tides and degree of rainfall. Expecting rain, rain, and more rain, in this lush Hoh like forest that receives an average of 200 inches a year, we were pleasantly surprised to be treated to 5 days of sunshine (although it did snow for several hours on a few days). The clear weather illuminated the stunning beauty of this remote land of giant spruce, tea colored streams, soaring snow capped peaks, eagles, enveloped everywhere by hanging shards of emerald green moss.

The lack of rain made the fishing especially slow and challenging in the sense that although wide the streams were very slow moving and shallow seldom being deeper than 2 feet requiring floating lines and leaders and often a fly that was only weighted by it’s hook. Because of the low water our efforts were confined to the Thorn River and Stamey Creek. Stealth, silence, and an absolute dead drift was the order of the day which often required 3 or 4 different casting strokes to cover the water in the pool. Unlike the usual NW stream, fish often held in water that was barely moving. Although we didn’t exactly set any records for fish in hand each of us landed two chrome bright fish (as evidenced by the attached photos), and had one other that threw the hook.

Gary Bergquist & Bob Burdick



Upcoming Events

A blurb about Chopaka, encouragement to sign up, and a request for logistical help.

This May 26-28 (Memorial Day Weekend) is our annual Chopaka Lake outing! Sign up on the website for head count, and to let us know how you can help make it happen.

This is one of the premier dry fly fishing places in the northwest, and one of the most beautiful locations in America. Mountains, bird species by the score, wild flowers, and even Moose! Spend the day in a little boat, fishing for rainbows and the occasional cutthroat among the reeds. Your only problems being to decide whether to twitch damselfly nymphs out of the weeds, or to float a callebaetis dry just above them. Of course there's always the quandary about whether to keep fishing or head in for happy hour.

We will camp in the meadows on the lake, (discover pass required) and host a happy hour around 5:00 Saturday, and Sunday. Bring your best appetizer to share, and bring something to throw on the club grill, which will be hot around 6:00. The

club will provide beverages, including beer and Wine. Bring your musical instruments, and your mad skills, to keep the great day going around the fire. Sunday morning has been the pancake breakfast for the last few years, and I'm hoping that will be well staffed too! Sunday has been the traditional "tempura night", and we're hoping lots of volunteers sign up to help feed us all.

The fishing is usually outstanding, including flying ant hatches, travelling sedge in the evening, mayfly hatches around 11:00 most days, and damselfly migrations and hatches on warm days. Bring all of the above! Along with a batch of big marabou leeches in black and dirty brown, to troll after dark.

Please sign up, and let us know how many folks are coming, and what you might be able to haul over and back. (coolers full of beer, canopies, grill and charcoal, etc.)

Thanks in advance, and see you there!

Dave Schorsch Outing host 206-775-9948 Colvosdrifter@aol.com

On the Fly continued

Where are we now? A few operations are gone, a few are still in production. The legislature has called for phase out by 2025 of all fish pens. Back to where we started. Remember that interloper 54 miles up the Skagit six months later? Since we don't have local science on these fish, we have had to rely on research done in B.C. The Canadians have found releases in most streams. Atlantic salmon aquaculture is a much bigger business in British Columbia. First Nation groups and scientists are up in arms to get rid about these polluting feed lots. Even though we have not seen spawning fish in Washington, they have in BC. And they don't die after spawning.

Don't assume the battle is won around here despite early victories. Every closure is being challenged in court. Existing laws are lax. The leases were written 30 years ago. Hear this Pilgrim, the fight ain't over. Keep vigilant. As if on call, the soldiers of the WFFC started arming themselves by asking many good questions and making some impromptu speeches disguised as questions. Battle on.

I won't relay every question, but Rocco asked the \$20 question: How do we get the consumer to know what they are buying when Costco sells affordable salmon in April? What's wrong with good, cheap fish? Well, listen and learn. That got Lynda on the question of what we eat and how our meat gets to the table? Time to do some research.

On a more positive note, and to end our learning experience, Maples told members of great news on the Elwha: steelhead migrating out, Coho on the way in, and even some rainbow rediscovering their anadromous ways.



Pat and Scott prepare the fish fry feast last year at Lake Chopaka





Washington Fly Fishing Club

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May 2018

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

This month's program is on May 15. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month: Ryan Fortier, of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will speak on fishing possibilities of the North Central area of the State of Washington, In the past Chad Jackson has presented on this topic.