

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



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President's Riffle

It happens as suddenly as a broken shoe lace. One day you are languishing in the torpor of a summer afternoon and the next morning there is a hint of fall in the morning cool. Before you know it you are in a dead panic about what to do next. Jump on those maintenance projects that you've been meaning to get to all summer or throw the fishing gear in the car for a last dash to the river. Today I find myself with paint brush in hand rather than the 5 weight—Katherine got up first, panicked first and voila, I'm on the maintenance team. Oh well, its been a great summer so far and if I keep my head down and finish up this deck I might still get a late season outing or two under the belt before the weather closes in.

The month just past is always a busy one in our family. The kids come up for some Puget Sound Cruising followed this year by an absolutely incredible week on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River chasing cutthroats and rainbows. Trip of a lifetime. The only downside was that we once again missed Bob Burdick's famous August WFFC special meeting. The meeting included dinner, 4 or 5 different interesting speakers and a gear exchange thrown in for good measure! Not surprisingly the August meeting saw a huge turnout of members and guest who by all accounts had a blast at this annual event. Thanks Bob for everything you do for the club.



Speaking of club volunteers, I can't tell you how pleased I am that Robert Thorpe has stepped up to take on the very important role as Chairman of the Conservation Committee. Robert has a career background in dealing with federal, state and local officials and we have high hopes that this background along with the enthusiastic support of the committee will enable him to make positive contributions to the critical environmental challenges facing us all. Robert has also taken on the role of official WFFC liaison to the Fly Fishers International (FFI) organization. Robert has a big presence in the FFI and it is hoped that with his help we can align the efforts of both organizations to everyone's benefit.

The club still has a number of outings scheduled over the next several months so for those of you who are current on your "to do" lists a lot of good fishing still to be had in 2018. Check out the website and sign up!

Best,
John

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Upcoming Events

Chopaka Lite

In our grief over the loss of this years Memorial Day outing to Chopaka lake, several members planned a fall trip there, now that the road goes thru. So we decided to make it an official club outing! We will be going the weekend of September 22 and 23. Most of us will be there Friday thru Sunday night, gainful employment being what it is.

We are calling this "Chopaka lite" because it's a fishing trip without all the traditional events associated with our trip there. We will skip tempura nite, pancake breakfast, and group barbeque. (We will also skip hauling the tons of associated stuff) We WILL have happy hour Saturday about 5:00, and the club will provide beverages, you bring the appetizers and side dishes. There will be no barbeque, and most likely no campfires, as the fire season still holds sway.

The fishing should be great, and the weather will be fall spectacular, if not a little cold at night. Makes for great camping, and hiking without dying in the heat.

Sign up on the web site, and come join us! Dave Schorsch, host.

Looking for Guides

We have several new members to the club that have great enthusiasm, little experience fishing the salt, ponds and lakes, little gear AND NO BOAT...yet.

We are looking for experienced members who have an extra seat in their boat at the Lake Hannan outing October 20th or the Wet Buns outing November 3-4 and would be willing to host a new member for the day in that seat and give a bit of instruction on just how fly fishing should be is done. If you would be willing to do this, please let Mike Mosczynski, Membership VP know and he will match up the experienced fly fisher

with a new member. If you are a new member and would like a mentor for a day, please let Mike know also.

Dear Wild Fish Enthusiasts

It's that time of year again! Wild Fish Conservancy staff are hard at work preparing for another summer on the Columbia River testing Washington's first commercial fish trap in over 80 years. We're inviting you to join our staff for a volunteer experience that is both rewarding and will help shape a sustainable future for our commercial salmon fisheries.

In the Columbia River and throughout the Pacific Northwest, gillnets and other non-selective commercial gears are operated in mixed-stock salmon fisheries—fisheries in which multiple species and populations co-exist.

Deploying these lethal conventional gears in primary fish migration corridors, various salmon stocks (some healthy, others endangered or threatened) are harvested at once, causing bycatch mortality of threatened and endangered wild salmon and steelhead.

To solve this pressing harvest issue, WFC has been working diligently with commercial fishermen in the Columbia River Basin to develop, test, and advocate implementation of stock-selective technologies that can successfully release wild fish and other by catch unharmed.

From 2016 to 2017 WFC conducted research to estimate survival of fish released from the fish trap. Post-release survival ranged from an impressive 94.4% for steelhead trout to 99.5% for Chinook salmon. These estimates of post-release survival represent significant and dramatic improvement over the performance of conventional gears utilized in the Columbia River for the harvest of salmon.

This summer for the first time, WFC will investigate the economic feasibility of using this alternate fishing gear to harvest robust hatchery-origin salmon stocks and market a sustainably-caught product.

Creel Notes

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

We can use volunteers on site (Cathlamet, WA) through early October. Volunteers will aid staff in operating the trap and harvesting hatchery-origin fish. No experience is necessary, but volunteers should be comfortable performing fieldwork in inclement weather.

If you can volunteer multiple days in a row, please email WFC with dates that work best for you at:

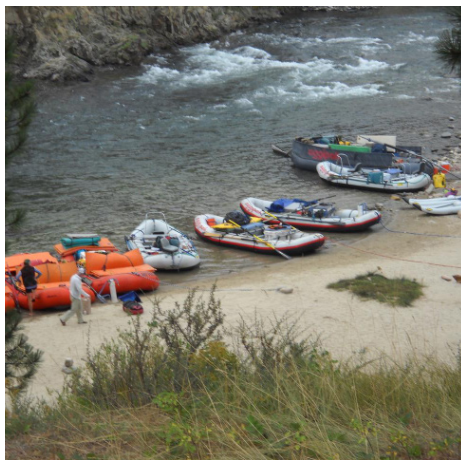
aaron@wildfishconservancy.org

Fishing Reports

Six Days on the MF of Idaho's Salmon River

by John Gravendyk

As the six place Islander aircraft banked for its final approach to the dirt strip at Indian Creek I could just make out the river through the smoke from the wildfires that had plagued the North-west for most of the summer. Now in mid August Katherine and I were finally minutes away from this much anticipated outing that we bid on and won at the 2017 club Christmas Party Auction. We would be joined by another fishing couple and

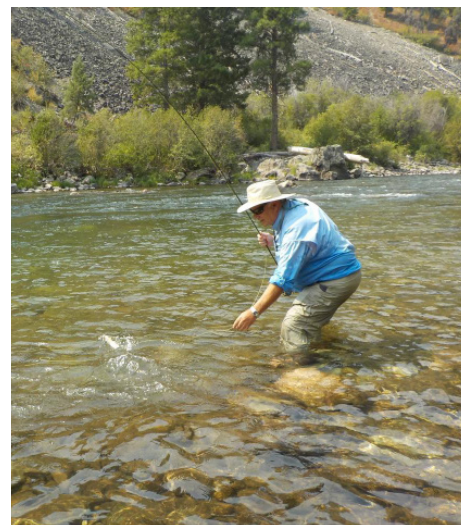


Ready to shove off (left), 75 rapids in 75 miles (above) and John catches the first fish of the trip.

their 12 year old daughter for the first two days of this adventure. On day 3 two more couples would join the 5 of us and our six guides as we floated 75 miles down the Middle Fork before finally joining the Main Salmon for the last two miles before taking out.

The Middle Fork is a spectacular river. Often billed as the last unspoiled wild river in the country it is damn free and closely regulated during the permit season. Some 25 outfitters hold permits and float the river cooperatively. The guides get together at the put in and campsites are assigned based on a fair process that includes considerations such as group size. Private floats are also possible and permits for these are issued on a lottery basis. Only oar or paddle powered boats are allowed and all fish Dear Wild Fish Enthusiasts bring is catch and release with barbless hooks. These regulations along with the amazing cooperation between the outfitters makes for an incredible experience in the resulting pristine environment.

The fishing was amazing! Mostly native cutthroat in the 11 to 13 inch range. We also caught a number of



rainbows and whitefish. Hoppers, ants and beetles worked on top for me. Katherine was throwing various wolf and stimulator patterns to great effect as well. The action was hot and heavy most of the day to the point that long releases and missed strikes actually became a relief. It was also a nice to reel up occasionally and just watch the incredible scenery as we pitched and slid through rapids created by the "basement rock" geology of the Idaho batholith.

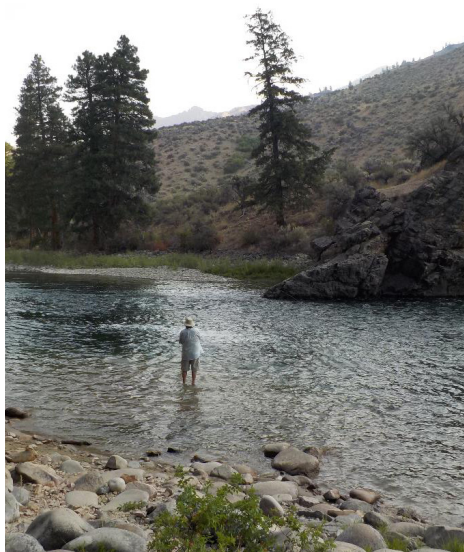
Our outfitter on this trip was Aggipah River Trips and they did a stellar job. The food—all made from scratch—was delicious. The guides were also friendly and helpful; our guide, Mike, had been guiding on the Middle Fork for 40

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.

Fishing Reports



John's last cast (left), fellowship on the Driftless,(above), a meadow in Wisconsin holding a delightful river (right), and fishing a gravel bar on the Driftless.



years. He was also a degreed geologist which helped immensely when trying to read the landscape.

This was honestly the best fishing I've experienced in years. That coupled with the magnificent scenery and wilderness experience made this the trip of a lifetime. Sure hope to do it again!

Driftless Report

by Mike Wearne

Fly fishing in the Midwest is focused on an area known as the Driftless. This name is the result of the lack of drift, which is the gravel, silt and clay that remains after glaciers

recede. In the case of the Driftless, all of that material was washed away by erosion, thus the land is driftless.

The Driftless area extends south from the Twin Cities to the area near Decorah Iowa. A majority of the Driftless is in the western portion of Wisconsin, centered near La Crosse, Wisconsin.

My trip to the Midwest was the result of a business trip to Minneapolis which extended from Sunday until Tuesday. I fished on the Saturday before the meeting and on Thursday and Friday after the meeting.

My first day of fishing was spent on the Kinnickinnic River in the area of the community of River Falls Wisconsin. This is a relatively small town. I got my fishing license at Lunds, a helpful local fly shop. The Kinni is

a brown and brook trout fishery. It is scenic and a very pleasant place to fish. There are several well marked access spots along the Kinni with easy parking. I only saw one other fly fisher during my day on the river. Lunds provided me with a detailed map of the river. I picked up a nice brown just below Junction Falls which is within the city limits of River Falls

River Falls is within one hour driving time of the Twin Cities metro area. I drove to check out Rush River, which is about 20 miles east of River Falls. The access here is limited to bridge overpasses. I did not fish the Rush River.

On the Wednesday after the meeting I pick up Greg Crumbaker at the airport and we drove to the La Crosse Wisconsin area. This is where we met up with John Townsell. The three of us fished on the Timber Coulee Creek and the Bohemian Valley Creek. This is rural area populated by dairy farms. We were normally in pastures with dairy herds. The streams here are typically 20 to 30 feet across and relatively shallow. At times we fished from behind grass that was six feet high. Most of the time we waded in the streams

Wisconsin has been proactively buying easements along streams throughout the Driftless. I was impressed with the fishing regulations in Wisconsin. There were color coded maps illustrating all of the potential fishing streams in the area.

I had a great time experiencing this type of fishing. I appreciated, particularly, John's wisdom and enthusiasm.





Washington Fly Fishing Club
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September 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 September. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

James Losee is the South Puget Sound fish biologist for the WDFW. He is responsible for groundbreaking research on the South Sound Coastal Cutthroat research project. The initial stage of this project is being wrapped up. This program will explain, in part, why the South Sound has such a vibrant coastal cutthroat population. Marcia Kindinger will be demonstrating how to tie her favorite fly for all to learn its tying techniques.