

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXIX NO.2

FEBRUARY, 2019

President's Riffle

I hope you all have weathered the snow safely and have had some down time to work on getting your fishing gear ready for this year's fly fishing trips, I did!



At the January Award's Dinner Meeting we had a very special past member in attendance, Jerry Swanson, who was the WFFC President in 1947 and is 102 years old. At the meeting, we vote him an Honorary Membership and gave him an award honoring service to the club. He was brought to the meeting by his three children. What a wonderful "blast from the past" and a great motivator to all of us to keep this great club's legacy going strong in the years ahead.

In the January Riffle, I gave a brief overview of "Project 100 Years", identifying some of the goals and tasks required to achieve our 100th anniversary in 2039. As a first step, we have analyzed our current membership and its participation at our Dinner Meetings and Outings. Here is a summary of the findings base on our 126 active members as of 1/26/19:

- Since 2014, thirteen women have joined the club and active membership grew by 13%. Twenty-one new members were added in 2018.
- Due to many younger member inductions, the average age of the active membership has been reduced by 14% compared to the 1970's average age.

- Attendance to Dinner Meetings has fallen by 28% since 2015, with 31% of Active Members not attending any meetings in 2018.

- The 10 Outings in 2018 averaged 10 members per Outing, with 64% of Active Members not attending an Outing in 2018.

The good news is that the Membership is increasing with many younger members. The bad news is that attendance at Dinner Meetings is falling and Outings attendance is not increasing.

What the above tells us is that we need to continue growing the membership and we need to make corrective actions to increase dinner meeting and outing participation.

The WFFC Board and Committees will be working on ways to increase dinner and outing participation. If you have any suggestions please email them to me at JLGoedhart@gmail.com. We value your input!

Our next Dinner Meeting is on February 19th. We will also be presenting the 2019 WFFC Budget for your review and approval. I am looking forward to see you all there and to "wet a fly" together.

Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart

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Outing Chair Looks for Feedback on Future Fun

I am looking for some direction from the club members, as well as additional ideas and volunteers to enable said ideas. The proposed dates are suggestions only based on past stocking and fishing success. First outing of the year! Building a snow angler in front of the tennis club for the next meeting. Probably as productive as fishing most anywhere in these conditions.

That said, It's time we talk about the schedule for this seasons fun and piscatorial frivolity. I have assembled a PROPOSED, SUGGESTED, and POSSIBLE list of outings for the first half of the season. (Please re-read the last line) I would like to hear any and all ideas for outings, lake, stream, or salt. I would really appreciate it if those outing ideas were accompanied by an offer to host or help manage same.

Some of the realities of group outings are things like: can a whole lot of people fish / camp / access the destination suggested? Is the fishing there appreciably better or different than another place? And this one is big with a lot of us, can the suggested outing spot take the pressure / impact of a large group event?

Think about those requirements, then give me a shout with great spots to go. Along those lines, I offer this list, with a flexible calendar at this time. This schedule comes from a combination of WDFW stocking schedules, typical weather, historical success, and participation.

Nahwatzel Lake March 23 or 24 Day outing.
Some really nice rainbows, near Shelton

Dry Falls April 6,7 Overnight at Sun Lakes
Leech dredging and chironomid soaking. Some awesome fish

Desert Lakes Late March to early April Day trip or overnight
Can be super great fishing, hike in some, drove in most Day TBD

Hannan Lake May 4 Day outing
Rainbow, cutthroat, brookies. A nice, close in private lake fish 8 to 4 only

Chopaka Lake May 25,26,27 Memorial Day weekend
Dry flies for rainbows! A few cutts. Great caning and fishing. Beautiful place

Leech Lake June 22,23 Overnight
Big rainbows, brook trout Dry lines

Cooper Lake Late June Day trip / overnight
Rainbows (some big), browns A classic mountain lake Date TBD

So there you have outings for the first six months of the year. Lets fill in the blanks with some day trips or small group outings. This is a fishing club! Lets do it!

Dave Schorsch

Creel Notes

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



There's more where this came from: P 5

On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

Awards Night

A good crowd descended on the comfy confines of the Seattle Tennis Club. Luckily I found a parking place on the street to avoid the ire of club members who cruised for parking.

Past President, John Gravendyke took the mic for the last time to introduce incoming John Goedhart, who thanked John effusively and then turned his attention to past president,



Jerry Swanson, president in 1947. We voted him into the club as an honorary member and gifted him a new hat.

With that, Bill Neal took over and the awards commenced. First off, Last year's Empty Creel award for outstanding service to the club, Peter Baird. Starting with the history of this formerly grandiose

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.



award for catching no fish. Today, we honor those who serve the club with distinction. With glasses ready to toast Pete honored past and living recipients. These august and prestigious members took their honors standing up. Our nominee, who dates back to 1998, has taken care of our library since he joined the club. He takes care of our storage, he runs our programs, he's taken care of the president's gavel a few years. By now you know who: Mike Wearne. Toast ensued.



Mike Mocynski introduced guests, starting with Brian Muegge who joined us as a guest for the last time. Brian comes from California, attended Gonzaga, and starting fishing in the great Northwest. From there he moved to Seattle and took a job at Patrick's Fly Fishing Shop.



After inducting Brian, Bill Neal recognized Dexter Brown and Deborah Katz for the hard



work in their short tenure.

Next Tommy Brawshaw's life as an angler, artist and fly tier. A WWI vet, he returned to British Columbia and became an honorary member of the club. His award includes a model of trout and great memories of his talents. The award goes a member who has distinguished his or her service in the community., Kris Kristofferson was called forward to recognize this year's winner. Kris offered tribute to a champion of the NF of the Stilly, who serves on various committees, oversees conservation work, and hogs the good



holes on the Stilly: Greg Minaker.

The Letcher Lambuth, legends of angling award, honors an individual from the Great North West. Henry Hoffman. Chuck Ballard, reveled



members in stories about Henry.

From Warrenton, Oregon, Henry devoted his time in finding the perfect hackle. Growing up on a chicken farm, he returned from the army and tied flies. Chickens came in handy, especially the Plymouth Rock Ban-

Continued on next page

On the fly Continued

tam. As a major tier, he determined chicken breeding to meet his needs for great grizzly hackle, the first saddle hackle; the Hoffman Hackle. He sold the business and retired to a life of fishing. He has patented several flies, won too many awards to list, and continues to develop new flies and techniques. Henry, a man of few words, accepted the award.

I took the mic and passed the Half-Assed award off, in verse, to Ron Little. Based on Emily Dickinson's poem 754, commonly known as "My Life had Stood a Loaded Gun," I recited:

My Life had stood – a broken Rod –
In corners – all the day
My boots slipped – indemnified –
And nearly carried me away –

And while fair Mark, dar-
ling Dave did cast
I got handed a dunking, on my ass
And every time I sought
to right myself
Another piece of rod did crash

And do I smile, a barely cordial light
Upon my friends, now foe?
Or do I sulk in yonder truck
And let my pleasure go?

And when my rods, in many pieces
Do guard their master's empty creel
And where my soaked'
wadens clumped
Comfort my mangled reel

Though I, then them – more
impatient grow
As they, more I – more fish do throw
For I - have but the power to wait
While they have the pow-
er to fish and cut bait

Congratulations Ron Little! Wel-
come to the Half Assed Club

Finally, we recognized Pete Baird
for membership longevity, clock-
ing 60 years of membership, and
too many services rendered to list.

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After the break, Mike Wearne introduced our speaker; Nick Chambers from Trout Unlimited. At TU, he advocates for Steelhead which found him drifting to working on suction dredging mining. Largely unregulated in Washington State, suction dredge mining overlaps with many streams with endangered species. Regulated by law to rebuild their streams, a



Our guest speaker, Nick Chambers from Trout Unlimited described in detail suction mining, a grave threat to Steelhead

number of miners suck up fish and gravel, spit them out, spread sediment downstream, and leave holes unfilled. Since some of these streams have been mined before, some of these dredges bring up harmful trace elements like mercury and lead. Mines

go unregulated and uninspected. TU argues that WDFW is out of compliance with Washington and Federal laws and has seen little movement to improve. Other states have done better, linking dredging to "taking" fish protected by the ESA. Some efforts on the state level have made little progress, enticing miners from other states to harm our waters.

Nick asks membership to reach out to our legislators, show up for debates, and support all TU efforts on behalf of regulating suction dredging. TU hopes to broaden the application process and check up on the dredging activities.

Nick then moved on to describe the TU Wild Steelhead Initiative. TU believes that we can re-establish historic wild runs in the NW. They have reached out to steelhead anglers of all sorts, helping us understand the science behind choosing when and where hatcheries are the only hope. Otherwise, the goal is to restore the land and maintain wild

populations. They also want to improve the science of accurate counts and let those counts reflect angling regulation. Members were asked to sign up to support these initiatives.

Down Under

New Zealand Dream By John Schuitemaker

New Zealand, or Aotearoa in the native Maori, which means “land of the long white cloud”. It’s my temporary home and has been since March 2017. It probably will be until mid 2020 when my wife I will return to the Northwest and slip back into the familiar patterns in the place that we call home for most of our lives. I think of the WFFC often, the friends I made there, and eagerly follow the activities in the Creel Notes. Lest I get too melancholy, allow me to catch up you (ever so briefly) with my fishing life in this jewel of a country.

Where to begin? First, New Zealand is an island nation made up of a North Island and a South Island. If you’re planning a fishing excursion here, it’s important to know which island you’ll be fishing, because they are a study in contrasts. Most of us NW trout fishers have developed our techniques as lake or stream fishermen by closely observing and learning where fish are likely to hold. We read the water like a mystery novel, clutching at clues, and deducing where the ‘purps’ are hiding. Then we “blind” cast with the all the faith our experience allows, and, if all goes well, a tight line and a fish to hand is our reward. This is North Island fishing. Streams teaming with fish, lush vegetation lining the banks as if a landscape architect had decided this is how it should all look – sublime. Think Yellowstone geothermal wonderlands meets fern trees and tea-stained streams.

I, on the other hand, live on the South Island. The landscapes are dominated by Olympics-like mountain ranges. Rivers here are bordered by willow (fish here love willow grubs, a green worm that grows in the leaves then fall on the water), beech (their seeds attract mice!), and sometimes in broad valleys (like the Madison) that



are braided with big gravel bars, open, and often windy. The fish are fewer in number (with some exceptions) but they are mostly trophies that rewards those who walk some distance to spot and hunt. Yes, this is the sight fishing part of New Zealand many of us hear about. What makes up for the fewer fish is their size, cunning, and the need to your eyes get to the ghostly shapes that look like a rock, a stick, or a patch of weed and now recognise for what it is – that brown or rainbow that you’ve been dreaming to catch.

I have to admit; the fish here have taken me to school. I had one rainbow take a dry, calmly swim toward my side of the river and proceed to rub its mouth on a weed bed then swim away leaving my fly neatly snagged in said weed bed. I swear I could almost see him flipping me off as he went back to his familiar lie. So many others that broke me off or threw the fly – and that’s if you don’t spook them before throwing a cast. A typical day: Fish 8, John 1.

I’ve joined the Wakatipu Anglers Club. The familiar feel of camaraderie bound through a common passion. There are many similarities – and some differences. They meet once a month, they do an annual fly-fishing course, they have a newsletter, a website, and outings. The differences? They have a club hut on the shores of Diamond Creek, they have a club boat with an outboard and

Former President, John Schuitemaker, holds some New Zealand trophies



electric engine, the average age is about 40, they don’t discriminate with regards to angling with a fly or gear (though the vast majority favour a fly), and their ranks are growing.

I introduced the idea of creating a reciprocal club relationship with the WFFC. They are all for it. Any WFFC club members that travel to NZ are welcomed to attend club meetings, contact club members, and participate in outings. It would be great to have the WFFC reciprocate for any WAC members traveling your way. Upcoming outings include the MacKenzie Country on the banks of Lake Benmore, followed by the annual Mavora Mouse Hunt, at Mavora Lakes in Central Otago. You guessed it, fishing starts at about 11:00 in the evening and goes through the night for big browns feeding on mice! Tight lines all.

Misc.

Suggested Reading by Bob Young

I suggest this because I am sure most of you who live in The Seattle area and are 'water' related will enjoy it. It is titled *Waterway* and is a book relating the story of the watery connection between Lake Washington and Puget Sound.

The book delves into the history of Seattle and the city's early movers and shakers and their vision for the development of our maritime future. It describes the machinations regarding the rerouting of the Black and White Rivers, the digging of the Montlake cut, the change in Lake Washington level and the construction of the Ballard Locks. If you ever take visitors out to the locks and the fish ladder you will want know some of the history related in this book.

I found it fascinating reading as I am sure many of our club members will also. I would donate a copy to the club library if we still had one but I will gladly loan a copy to any interested club member. Just contact me and I will bring a copy to a club meeting.

Peter McVey by Steve Raymond

I don't know if you ever met Peter McVey, who was the master chef and bamboo rod builder at Corbett Lake Lodge in British Columbia for many years, but I do know many WIFFC members have stayed there and know him. I just got word this morning that he collapsed and was taken to a hospital where they discovered he had a heart problem and installed a pacemaker. However, they also discovered he has throat cancer. He's traveling to Kelowna for treatment and his brother is with him. I don't have his mailing
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address but I'm trying to get it. I imagine lots of WFFC members would want to send him a card or greeting.

Peter's mailing address: P.O. Box 1293, Merritt BC V1K 1B8 Canada

Other News from Canada by Steve Raymond

Another item of bad news from B.C. that may be of interest: A federal judge in Kamloops has ruled that the Douglas Lake Ranch may no longer restrict public access to Minnie and Stoney Lakes. This was in answer to a suit brought by a bunch of rednecks who live in Merritt, who are now waiting greedily for spring to come so they can rush in and fish out the lakes.

I did some digging and found the Corbett Lake court case is still pending. The people who brought it--the Nicola Valley Fish & Game Club (which might be more accurately called the Nicola Valley Kill All the Fish and Game Club)--are the same ones who brought the case against the Douglas Lake Ranch. The judge's reasoning in that case (if it can be called reasoning) was bizarre, but if it's allowed to stand it could be applied as a precedent against Corbett Lake. The judge said that regardless of the fact that the Douglas Lake Ranch may have paid for the trout stocked in Minnie and Stoney, once they were released into the lakes they became "wild animals" which belong to all the people of British Columbia, and therefore it was illegal for the ranch to prohibit public access to them. And he made it clear his ruling also applies to the roads leading to the lakes, not just the lakes themselves.

Douglas Lake Ranch, as you may know, is owned by an American billionaire who married into the family that owns Walmart, and I suspect that foreign ownership may have had lots to do with this peculiar decision by a judge who obviously

knows nothing about the difference between wild trout and those raised in hatcheries. I hope Douglas Lake will appeal, because this decision could do a great deal of damage to what little remains of sport fishing in B.C.

2019 BOYD AIGNER Competition

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

The Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2019 has commenced. The objective of the Competition is to have participants demonstrate their creativity and tying skills. Each participant is to submit a "best" fly in each of three categories. The Members of the Club will be the judges.

Here are the 2019 patterns:

- CDC Biot Comparadunn, size 14 hook;
- Dragonfly adult, size 8 hook; and
- Green Drake nymph, size 12 hook.

Here is the schedule for the Competition:

- February Members' Meeting- Display boxes distributed
- April Members' Meeting Flies due
- May Members' Meeting Judging
- June Members' Meeting- Winners announced

The overall winner will receive a special WFFC pin developed for the Competition and will have his or her name engraved on a rotating plaque. Bob Burdick and I will serve as Coordinators for the Competition. Please contact either of us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your participation and good luck to all.

Bill: (w) 206.892.2116;
(h) 206.232.0603; william.

Fishing Reports

I'm Not Fishing Report by John Townsell

Today, I probably won't go fly fishing on my favorite spring creeks here in the "driftless area" in Wisconsin but...the spring creeks are not frozen because the water comes out of the ground at 47-49 degrees and it takes a "fair distance" for the water to cool down even in severely cold conditions. I have often fished here with the water freezing in my guides but the trout are flourishing and striking.

It was -30 last night. They also say that cold water tossed will freeze before it hits the ground but haven't tried that yet. Going to be -34 to -37 tonight with wind chill of -60! But it could be worse...record low for today was -47 degrees in 1877! Interesting that our Prius cars recently had the antifreeze changed and we are only protected down to -34! School has been cancelled for 3 days this week. No mail delivery; too cold for the carriers. But we are warm and safe

Munn Lake (Near Tumwater) by David Schrosch

Feb 1, 2019

Cabin fever had set in hard, and I hate daytime t.v. so I headed for the water. The closest "quality" water, in terms of travel time for me, is Munn Lake near Tumwater. It's very easy to find, just take I-5 to the Tumwater blvd exit, head east to the end, left to the power lines, right to the lake access. Shhh! Don't tell anybody! It's a secret! Says so on the WDFW fish Washington web site.

The day wasn't too bad for February, mixed rain and snow with just the right amount of howling wind. Even so, there were a couple other fly guys



Schorsch practices what he preaches on Munn Lake

on the lake! In spite of its suburban location, this little lake sports some fine structure and water quality. There were tiny midges hatching, but not much surface action, unless you count the pair of bald eagles doing a brisk business in the shallow end of the lake.

I fished the usual (for me) slow full sink line and a collection of mohair leeches, hale bopps, and buggers. The fishing was not fast, but steady enough

to keep warm, and not nearly as deep as I might have guessed by the weather. In two hours or so, I landed 3 pretty nice rainbows, and 2 cutthroat of the same dimensions. The bows were fat and busy, and the cutts slender and sluggish. To cold for them maybe?

Anyway, it was a good day trip to one of my favorite local ponds. Should only get better as the weather improves. Check it out!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE to WFFC Action Required

2019 Active and Associate Member Dues Reminder

Thanks to all the Active and Associate Members who have already paid their 2019 membership dues. But time, tides and dues deadlines wait for no fly fisher! Dues for 2019 are payable through February 28th. After February 28th a \$20 delinquent dues penalty will be added to the Active Member dues (\$80 + \$20 = \$100) and Associate Member dues (\$50 + \$20 = \$70). Your dues can be paid on the WFFC website

If you are having any difficult paying your dues contact Mike Moscynski, VP Membership.



Washington Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 639

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www.wffc.com

February, 2019

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 February 21. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month: Becky Bennett, WDFW Law Enforcement, will be speaking on enforcement challenges which are currently faced by WDFW.

WDFW Police wishes to form an open line of communication to identify existing and potential problems facing our natural resources and the communities that are impacted by them. This allows for constructive problem solving and discussion, to achieve positive results for forward progress. We are calling that opportunity a Shared Values Alliance. This alliance forms an open line of communication to identify existing and potential problems facing our natural resources and the communities that are impacted by them.