

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXIX NO.5

MAY, 2019

President's Riffle

Hope that you all have been out fishing in this great weather. I went fishing on the Yakama and caught a few trout with my son and had a wonderful time.

This year is the WFFC's 80th anniversary, founded in 1939 with following stated Aims and Purposes:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To work to outlaw the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout in 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 Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys, particularly of high-school age, to become Fly Fisherman and True Sportsmen.

Sense its beginning, the club has be a social fishing club and continues to be so today with the great addition of women anglers. We continue, as a membership, to fish together, learn together and work together to increase and protect, Steelhead, Trout and Salmon fly fishing in the State of Washington.



At the upcoming May 19th Dinner Meeting we will celebrate our 80th anniversary with Chuck Ballard

regaling about its past accomplishments and I will speak on initiatives for us focus on going forward to continue club's great legacy to reach 100 years, "as the times they are a changing".

Hope to see you all at the May dinner meeting and for us to "wet a fly" together.

Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart



Gary Bergquist, above, shows Mike Wearne a few new tricks in hopes of tying the master fly at the April Meeting

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NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy Ready to Go

2019 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is set and ready to go. We have 20 amazing boys and girls registered for the event. All their essays and letters of recommendation are in and it appears we have another great group of kids.

The Academy is June 23-24 on Hicks Lake at The Gwinwood Community Center in Lacey. We have a fantastic instructor lineup with FFI/CCI casting instructors, fly tying professionals and conservation experts. Last year we had over 50 volunteers.

The 2019 Academy would not take place if it was not for the generous support from the Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters, corporate and private donors.

The kids will be fishing at new ponds in Thurston County, and the

Deschutes River in Thurston County. Everyone is welcome to visit us during the week to learn what is happening (please call 1st to insure we are available), if you are available for guiding, we could use your help, especially in the evenings on the river.

If you want to help – please contact Jim Brosio @ 360-941-9947 or Mike @253-278-0061.

Seriously folks, we could really use your help with the guiding in the evening on the river. It's really not guiding, it's being there to make sure the kids are safe, but you could share your experience on fishing a river with them. We will provide the transportation to the sites.

Mike Clancy, Co-Director, NWY-CFFAcademy, www.nwycffa.com

Nyerges Family Memorial

Hello to all of Dads fishing friends.

Well, it's been a hard winter to go through without Mom and Dad and brother Gil, jr, (passings) but time is sliding away, as time does.

I want to pass the word to you, and hope that you can pass the word to any and all of his friends through the

area about the Remembrance Celebration for the three of them. I tried to find a location that would be about equidistant for friends and family who might wish to attend and finally settled on one that I think works well.

So, the Nyerges Family Memorial will be held at the:

**Hilton Garden Inn,
Seattle/Bothell
22600 Bothell Everett Highway
Sunday, May 19th
From 2:30 to 5:00**

Also, any images you may want to include in the memorial photo PowerPoint presentation should be sent to me in their highest resolution by, oh, let's say the 14th.

I will have a couple of tables of just SOME of the Nyerges Memorabilia available for "re-homing".

Please send any email corre-

Creel Notes

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Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC

spondence to me with "NYERGES MEMORIAL" in the subject line. (Judi's email address is

jbroadway45@gmail.com

Thank you one and all!!
Judi Nyerges



Gil Nyerges, above, celebrates his birthday in 2017, as anglers, family and friends stand by

On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich
April 16, 2019



I didn't get into the house in time for dinner, so that meant I showed up with knives and forks in motion while Jim McDonauld was remembered. I'm sorry I didn't get the keyboard fired up in time to catch all the quotable memories, but I can summarize the gist: no conversation with Jim was short, no emotion from him was shallow, and no effort on behalf of the club was small.

Mike Mosczynski went right into guest introductions and new members. Lots of new members. Most of the anglers were either jumping right into the sport, or finding a way back to the game. Wow, lots of new members. I mean, a ton. Way to go Mike!

Guest introductions included some very experienced and well

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.

traveled rod handlers. Meanwhile, let me report that tonight's meal got high praise, and for those keeping score (and who isn't?), we had pork. Not chicken.

Fishing reports started with Scott, the legend, Hagen who traveled to the Big Easy with Stephanie and gunned for red fish on the salt marshes. Not so good with high water flowing off Big Muddy. Dick Brening reported on Dry Falls, earning "top rod" on Friday with two fish, soon to be topped by Sunday's six fish day. Big news, Dave Schorsch got skunked. If you can believe it!! Bob, the "greatest fly tier in the world", Burdick hit up some Dollies on the Skagit. Robert Tovar got some Sea Run Cutthroat feasting on chum fry. Bob also used winter temps and low water to get some serious work done on the Yakima all season. Ruth made an early effort on the Queets, tying flies on the way. Bill Redman continued the trend of "non-fishing reports". Moving into a retirement home, Bill packed his gear into his storage unit, only to find the stuff

leaving on the sly over the course of the year, nearly losing everything. USAA held up their end of the deal and he's about to buy a lot of new gear. Dr. Clark got skunked at Newatzel. Dan Peterson did better. I reported on mixed success at Rock Creek near Missoula.

Inductions found Pete Baird honoring six, count 'em, six new members. Pete queried each about his or her passion. Opportunity, getting outdoors, having fun, passion, therapy, getting better, and the beauty

of the river. Sounds like some solid reasons. Then for the goodies.

Committee reports included an early call for Christmas donations, a call for Creel Note articles by May 12, no more felt soles in Jellystone NP, the threat of mines killing Sockeye, trips to lake Hannan for chilly, cornbread, brats, and some nice lake fishing. Mike warned us not to whine about the distance to the water to haul boats and to remind us that the church does not allow booze unless you're about to have your last super and are grasping the soon to be holy grail.

After the break (and a failed attempt to steal a cookie), Lou Verdugo, from the Caddis Fly shop in Eugene, Oregon, spoke on the Mckenzie River. Armed with maps, guidebooks, and some nice pictures, Lou shared the skinny



on two great rivers that flow into Eugene - the Mckenzie and the MF of the Willamette. Open all year, the Mckenzie divides up into four sections, the upper being open to expert rowers only. Fishing is best from a drift boat, but there are some wading points. The Mckenzie starts at the Cascade crest, heads into the MF of the Willy, becoming the Willamette proper all the way to Portland.

Continued on next page

On the fly Continued

Reviewing a few great hatcheries and flies, the McKenzie can be a big river this time of year and requires quite a dance to get the boat in the right drift and the angler hitting the pockets on the drift. Some water is Class 3. Technical. Mid-river is less stressful, with time to stop on various gravel bars and places to stand and fish. Summer brings high temps which means early days on the rivers. Below the dam to the confluence, the river gets wide and the fish get wild (as in no hatchery fish). For novice rowers, this part of the river provides good water until hot weather leaves the water skinny.

The McKenzie gets a summer run of Steelhead, through Eugene and up the Mac. Numbers of returnees have been low, falling far below the usual 10,000 returning fish. Finally, you can fish underneath I-5 except during a UO rubber hatch of darling Ducks. Normally, the fishing day is 10:00 until 15:00 assuming the water level is sane. Call the Caddis Fly Shop for the straight dope on water levels or check the gauges on their website (caddisflyshop.com).

Questions ensued. The McKenzie gets a lot of traffic on the weekend on the lower river. Upper river gets less pressure due to the technical nature of the drift. Even on busy days, the river has room for lots of anglers. It's not a shoulder to shoulder salmon massacre.

That said - President Goedhart reminded us that next month marks 80 years. Chuck Ballard will look backward, Jim will look forward to find ways to get the club to 100th anniversary.

Outings

Chopaka Outing

As usual, the club will have our annual Chopaka Lake outing Memorial Day weekend. This is one of the best dry fly venues in the west, especially this time of year.

We camp in a big meadow, with lots of other people, so getting there early is good. We need lots of help with this outing, hauling the ton of

gear we need, over and back. Sign up on the website, and indicate if you can haul or help. We need to get the big (4 feet square, by 4 inches) grill and charcoal, a couple canopies (8x8x60), a big cooler or two, and the beverages that go in them (for 30-40 for two happy hours), folding tables, tempura cooker and propane tank (and pots and oil and fish and...), and more!

We also need volunteers for the Sunday breakfast! So sign up! Don't worry, there's plenty of time to fish!

Dave Schorsch

Christmas Looms Already? Ask Deb!

Why is she talking about December when it isn't even summer?

Yes, folks, it is that time of year again. The most festive event of 2019 is a mere 8 months away. So, as the designated driver of this event for the second time, let me whisper a few sweet nothings in your ears.

For those of you new to the club - or you have been a member so long that you can't remember last December - the big fund raiser for all of the outreach, volunteer and conservation that we do happens in one spectacular evening. This is a wonderful evening of mirth, merriment, a little culture and a lot of dipping into your wallet. It is held at the usual time and place: the third Tuesday of the month which will be December 17th, 2019.

For those of you who bid on trips or home stays, please take pictures and send them to me.

For all of you, I will try to be at most board and dinner meetings from now until then. Bring me what ya got! You can donate little things that will be grouped into marvelous "raffle cans." Bigger things will be offered as silent or live auction items. Think about gift certificates to restaurants, getaways, whatever.

Fishing related or not - we don't care.

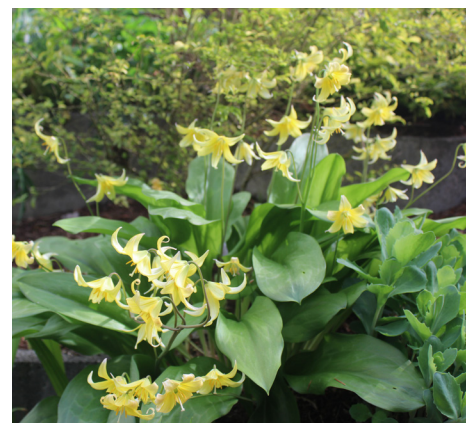
Yes, there will be nagging! I have to try to top the fabulous event that we had in December. Come on! Who needs 10 rods, really? YOU don't! And that cool reel that you haven't used in 5 years??? We want it, too!

You can send me an e-mail (dnaomikatz@gmail.com) or call or text (206 - 769 - 5178) to arrange a drop off for stuff that you don't want to haul to the club.

I do ask that you put your name on any objects that you donate because it got pretty overwhelming last year.

Thanks for all that you did last year. Let's top it this year!

Deb Katz



Fishing Reports

Roses and Rat Lakes

Roses Lake: I managed to get three fish in about two and a half hours of fishing. The best news is I witnessed a family of Ukraine's who continued to keep fish beyond their full family limit. I even told them they had to stop or possibly get a citation but they ignored my input. I reported this, not expecting any result. I got a call here in Chelan yesterday from the WDFW enforcement officer. He thanked me and said my call resulted in an arrest as the family were in a fish selling operation of game fish and were caught as a direct result of my report. Yea! The lesson here is if you see a violator report it!

Ratlk 4/20/19: Fished that same small leech and caught four 14". It was "very" windy (30mph) big waves so it was tough rowing and I didn't get a fish until three and a half hours after starting. Then all four within a half hour. The water is still very cold so it should fish better in another week or so.

Chuck Ballard

On the Big Horn

John Narver and I fished the Big Horn with guide Matt on 4/24 and 25. We floated and fished from a drift boat each day, covering 12 miles and taking out at The Big Horn River Lodge. We released 15 fish one day and eight fish the second day, equally rainbows and browns with one sucker which came with no extra charge.



Weather in April in Montana is weather in April. Two beautiful mornings and two wretched late afternoons with rain, near snow, and temps from 38 to 60 degrees. Almost all fishing was sub surface, but a hatch of BWOs for 40 minutes allowed four or five on # 18 dries.

Although our catch rate was very good for this year it was well below for an average year, perhaps due to very cold water (39-43 degrees.) Service and nutrition at the Lodge could not have been better.

On the Missouri



Fishing the Missouri the week of April 22 couldn't have been better. Frank Stull and I stayed in Helena with our guide for six nights, fishing five days and commuting to Holter Dam to put in each day.

The river was crowded due to high water on the Bitterroot and other rivers. We avoided the crowds by launching at 11:00 and taking out around 7:00.

We caught 15-20 rainbows and browns each day. They were in the 17-22" range.

One day we stayed in one area across from the put-in all

day because it was so good.

We nymphed with sow-bugs and indicators.

The weather was sunny—50-60 degrees each day.

Our goal was to net a double, which finally happened the last day. Prior times one of us each lost a fish.

It was a good time to be on the Missouri!

Dry Falls Lake

April 13,14

The WFFC returned to Dry Falls lake for our first spring outing this year. We had a pretty good turnout, with 14 members represented on the water and at happy hour. Unfortunately the fish didn't seem impressed, and a tough day was had by all.

The average catch was "one or two" each, with some skunks for the day. Most of the fish landed were very fat and strong. The weather was pretty good, with only the occasional rain squall, and it cleared up nicely for the evening festivities..

Happy hour was very well stocked with tasty food and cold beverages, Gary Bergquist made a massive batch of his awesome beans, Kurt Peterson brought piles of hot Nachos, there was tons of everything!

The evening campfire company was great! Thanks to everyone who helped set up, cook, and take down!

Dave Schorsch

Steelheading on the

Pere Marquette

Day One: Heavy rain

Day Two: Bright, hot sunshine

Day Three: Cool and overcast

Day Four: Snow

Spring fishing on the Pere Marquette! In early April, my wife Adair, son-in-law Kurt, and friends Stephan and Kris and I spent four days chasing steelhead on the Pere Marquette river in Michigan. For about 15 years, I've

Fishing Reports

been going back to that river twice a year to fish for salmon in the fall and steelhead in the spring, but the steelhead season is my favorite. There are fewer anglers then, probably because the weather is notoriously variable and can be miserably cold and wet, if you care about that. The river is a beautiful gentle meandering stream, fishable from the town of Baldwin down to the mouth at Luddington, about 65 miles or so of stream. The PM is a designated wild and scenic river and one of the only three remaining undammed river systems in the Lower 48. The top portion, from M37 at Baldwin to Gleason's Landing, is flies only, catch and release. Mile for mile, this section of the PM has more spawning gravel than any other stream in the state. The fish population can be high. More or less anything goes below Gleason's, however.

The steelhead here are ours, or at least they once were. They were transported from Washington and Oregon to the Pere Marquette in the late 1800s, in the hope of producing a rainbow trout fishery there. The experiment failed. After a couple of years, the rainbow trout disappeared from the summer trout fishery. They tried again a few years later, but that



attempt failed as well. Meanwhile, large fish had begun to appear in the system in the winter months. But not until the 1930s did Michigan officially acknowledge that it had created a steelhead run. In the 130 years since their introduction, the fish



have adapted to an entirely fresh-water existence and are now a unique strain.

These steelhead can run over 20 pounds and 15-18 pound fish are not uncommon. We fish them on anywhere from 12# down to 6# tippet, depending on water levels and conditions. Even on the 12#, these fish are a real challenge in this system. They are brilliant at using the current against you, half-hitching you around the many logs and snags, or rubbing off your hook on a rock. They have more ways to screw you up than one angler could find in a lifetime. Over the years I've had days where I've hooked 20 fish and landed 2. On this trip, we all had hookups every day and all of us landed at least one fish on at least three of the four days. Adair had the best day, going 4 for 8 on the run from Upper Bridge to Walhalla (where walleye go to drink mead in the afterlife).

It's a nymphing game on the PM. You will see people swinging flies, but you won't see them with fish. The locals favor the chuck 'n duck method of fishing. Deep nymphing. The nymphs in the spring tend to be green caddis and small black stones, along with the famous PM Wiggler or PM Blonde, an imitation of a very large hex nymph or an alevin, opinions differ. They all work well. Alevins are popular with the steelhead in the early spring.

You can pick fish off the redds, and some do, but I find it much more fun to work the dark slots and the deep holes. Fresh fish tend to hold there. When you cast into that dark and lovely water, you never know what will come up and take your fly,

run you upstream and back down, then break you off in a way you've never seen before. It leaves you talking to yourself for the next year.

You may encounter other species here. Brown trout were placed in the river in the 1800s by the lumber barons, many of German extraction. They've prospered, especially with the introduction of steelhead and pacific salmon to the stream. They'll hold in the drop offs behind the gravel bars and gorge on eggs. Browns over 20" are routine and a few years back, Kris had one on that the guide estimated at 35". They get bigger than that. The size is great, but these browns are gorgeous, too. You might also find a Kamloops rainbow, thanks to a failed dam on a rod and gun club stocked lake.

All-in-all, it's a great stretch of water!

Lake Hannan

May 4

When an outing is a success, it can get huge! We had a great turnout for the Saturday outing at Hannan. At one point, I counted 38 boats on the water! Folks were hauling boats down the road, because they couldn't get close to the beach. Some boats had two or three people in them as well. Add the few that just came for the hot dogs and chili, and you get something close to 50 people!

The weather was beautiful, but the fishing was a little slow. Cutthroat and cuttbow hybrids for the most part. Very few brookies. Most got two or three fish, with top rods around 8.

The clubs provided lunch, which was well attended, burning thru 5 gallons of chili and dozens of dogs. This was a group outing with the WFFC, Overlake, and High Laker fly clubs represented.

Dave Schorsch





Washington Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 639

Mercer Island, WA 98040

www.wffc.com

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

This month: Jeff Thiel will speak on Climate Change and how the cold water fish populations in the Pacific Northwest are threatened by the stressors of climate change (low snow pack, drought/deluge, heat waves). Current scientific analysis is learning that the changes are happening faster than expected just 10 years ago as scientists improve climate models and climate data collection. So we don't have much time to fix it.