

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXIX NO.8

AUGUST, 2019

President's Riffle

At the July dinner meeting, the following members were elected to the 2020 Board Nominating Committee:

- Pat Becker
- Stephanie Hagen
- Gary Bergquist
- Chapin Henry
- Kris Kristoferson



They will be reaching out to the membership in the following months to recruit individuals to replace the retiring Board Members and 3rd year Trustees. The nominee's will be voted on for acceptance at the November dinner meeting.

If you are contacted to fulfill one of these very important positions, please carefully understand the office's duties, responsibilities and time commitments that will be required in 2020. Also consider the exciting opportunity to work with the Board to shape the future of the Club to reach its 100 Anniversary in 2039.

At the August Dinner Meeting, the Artifishal film will be shown. The film is about the fight for the future of wild fish and the environment that supports them. It explores wild salmon's slide toward extinction, threats posed by fish hatcheries and fish farms, and our continued loss of faith in nature. The film will be

hosted by Conrad Gowell, a former WFFC member and now one of the leaders of the Native Fish Society in Oregon. Please come and view this important film and invite your partners and friends to attend with you.

Jay Deeds will again be hosting the Hood Canal Outing on the weekend of September 14 – 15. For more information and to sign-up to attend, please go to the WFFC.com website's "Outings" webpage.

Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart

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Christmas Holiday Dinner and Auction, Dec 17th

SAVE THE DATE and DONATE!

Greetings! It's me again, this year's wrangler for the December Dinner and Auction. I REALLY need your help with your generous donations. Plan to bring your sweetheart, family (adults), prospective members and friends to our WFFC fun, entertaining, and delicious Annual Holiday Dinner and Auction. Support our club's annual fund raiser and our meaningful community service programs such as Healing Waters and Reel Recovery all while reeling in fabulous auction items and having a good time! Mark the Date and Donate! Then make a call this month to donate an auction item in support of this great event.

Happy hour starts around 5:30 with plenty of time to peruse a wide selection of auction items and visit with fellow WFFC members and close friends! Dinner will be served at 7:00 with wine on the tables and your special entrée choice made when you register. A gourmet meal followed by a delicious dessert. Then the auction fun begins. Come join your fellow club members along with our Auctioneers, as they outdo each other to win your hearts, your dollars and entertain you throughout the evening. As our annual and primary fundraiser, we count on your support of our club activities through attending and participating in the silent and live auctions and raffle selections. We also count on the generous support of members and businesses that donate to help us fund our conservation projects, veterans' programs, youth programs, homeless outreach and outings.

We need YOUR HELP compiling a great selection of auction items. If you have items, ideas, outings or services you'd like to donate to a great cause, now is the time! We can also provide ideas for you to consider. Please contact Deborah Katz (206) 769-5178 or email: dnaomikatz@gmail.com and like Santa, she will pick up your items or arrange printed auction gift certificate for items such as trips, dinners, weekend stays, or guided fishing outings. Weekend getaway at a cabin or condo? Guided fishing day on local waters? Spare rod or reel that you've rarely use?

Artwork you are ready to part with? Recommendations for guides, lodges, local activities or restaurant contacts? Now's the time to make a call for a good cause! Registration will be available on the WFFC web site in November for dinner selections and to register guests. SO SAVE THE DATE on your calendar and remember to Sign up in November to reserve your spot!

Reservations will include dinner, salad, your choice of entrée, scrumptious dessert, and wine. The camaraderie and fun are free! See you in December and make a call now to support your club with a donation!

~Deborah Katz

Creel Notes

is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

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

Please send your articles for the September edition of Creel Notes by Friday September 6th to Melfry@outlook.com

Club Outings

Leech Lake Outing

6/22/19

I stuffed my float tube and fishing gear into the back of my Subaru Impreza and headed out early Saturday morning to White Pass for the Leech Lake Outing. The thick fog made driving challenging as I drove over Cayuse Pass through Mt. Rainier National Park.

I arrived at the lake at about 8:30am and the weather was sunny and moderately windy. I strapped my float tube on my back and hiked through the woods on a

The catching slowed with the increase in the afternoon wind providing a choppy disturbance on the lake surface.

We were forced to relocate our happy hour and steak barbecue because a wedding party claimed our normal gathering place by the large fire pit. It could have been a scene out of the Wedding Crashers movie with a few of us contemplating moving in on the wedding reception. Apparently, Ron Little, aka Owen Wilson and Ben Davidson, aka Vince Vaughn did in fact later attend the wedding reception dinner to sample some of the food.

The folks from the White Pass

the pancake, bacon and coffee breakfast in one of the condos. The breakfast crew including Mark Pratt, Ron Little and Dave Schorsch were hard at work in feeding the hungry folks. I didn't fish on Sunday and headed back home after the breakfast.

Thanks go out to Dave Schorsch for doing the coordinating and hauling all the stuff for the outing.

~Mike Nolan



trail to the upper end of the lake. I fished the shallow water section of the upper lake and I didn't hook into any fish.

I moved to deeper water and proceeded to catch and release many brookies using the olive willie and carrot nymph flies on an intermediate line. There was a period of time where I was catching a brookie on about every other cast. The trout turned their attention to the may flies in the afternoon and the lake was boiling with rises. I switched to a parachute Adams and caught a 16" triploid rainbow.

Village Inn provided a barbecue and a few tables on the lawn for our group. We had sunshine and cool temperatures during the gathering at our 4000' mountain elevation. There was abundance of hors d'oeuvres, salads, side dishes, desserts and beverages available for consuming. Larry Karlovich and I headed back down to the Leech Lake campground to enjoy an evening campfire and camaraderie.

Early Sunday morning we had

Fishing Reports



Hadlock, WA

While fishing an incoming tide at mid-day on July 18th in the channel between Indian Island and the mainland near Hadlock and Port Townsend for the first time I landed this chrome bright 4# silver on a Clouser attached to a sink tip line. The beaches here are mostly gravel covered with lots of clam shells and despite a 8 foot tide change through this slot the currents were not formidable. Fishing was generally slow although my fishing partner Denny Westover had strikes from several hefty cutthroat and landed a few small ones.

~Bob Burdick

Bogacheil River

I took the family out to the Olympic Peninsula in July towing our newly acquired Tavel trailer. We

had plans to camp at the Bogacheil State Park for 2 nights then head toward the coast. The state park is on the Bogacheil River maybe 10 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean. There is plenty of river accessible from the park so Shelby and I fished for 2 days on and off. The river was low and fairly clear. Lots of 4 inch fish ready and willing to hit anything with some deer hair on it. Shelby had a blast pestering those little guys. She did get 1 nice cutthroat about 10". I fished large streamers and got a few really nice cutthroat between 12-16", usually early in the morning. Fishing down river from Shelby and the kids I hooked something BIG, a 30" summer steelhead!



Of course nobody around to help get a picture so I did my best with a selfie. My first peninsula steelhead and my first summer steelhead. Needless to say I was giddy for a few days. On the way to the ocean we stopped at a place on the Hoh River and I fished for an hour with another surprise of a big Dolly Varden again on large streamers.



All in all it was a great trip and I knocked a few things off the bucket list.

Tight lines

~Ben Davidson

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Conservation



Saving Lone Lake

This is a story about how a community comes together to save a lake. Lone Lake is a 90.3 acre lake on the south end of Whidbey Island, Washington. Popular with boaters, swimmers and trout fisherman and ringed by homes, in 1996-2003 it was invaded by waterweeds that reduced access and interfered with the fish. Residents and local environmental organizations tried to fix the problem by alternately applying herbicides to kill the plants and stocking grass carp to eat them.



Algae bloom on Lone Lake

The plants were eradicated but left nothing in the water to consume nutrients and compete with algae. As a result, the lake developed a serious case of toxic algae that turned it green, caused several thousand valuable trout to die, and posed dangers to local pets or any creatures who drank the water. In 2017 the lake was closed, causing disruption of fishing, boating, and swimming, reduction of lakefront property values, and widespread community distress. Improving the environment and ecosystem of Lone Lake seemed like it was going to be a tough job.

Enter Mark Sytsma, a retired professor of environmental sciences at Portland State University who purchased a house near Lone Lake in 2016 and moved there full-time with his wife in 2018. “I did my due diligence when we bought our house. I knew about the lake, I knew about its water quality problems. I thought, well, this would be a fun little retirement project. It’s something I know about and I could actually do some good. I knew about this Washington Department of Ecology grant program so when I got here I called up the Whidbey Island Conservation District and I said hey, you know this lake’s got problems, we should write a grant proposal. And we got the money.”

Armed with funding from the WA Department of Ecology’s Freshwater Algae Control program and matching funds from the conservation district, the community started to come together to move things forward. “There’s a lot of collaborators on it—probably 20 organizations that are collaborating and supporting the project, from fishing clubs to the homeowners’ association to the yachting club,” said Matt Zupich, District Manager of the Whidbey Island Conservation District.



Mark Sytsma (left) and Matt Zupich

The two-year program’s goal is to develop a plan for managing the lake: reducing the algae blooms, encouraging fish life, and creating an environment that all in the community can enjoy.

Mark knows lakes. “Many lakes, particularly small shallow lakes, have the same sort of problem if they’re in a settled area because there are lots of people. Houses have septic tanks and there’s agriculture and all of this human activity in the watershed. So if it’s a pristine watershed, the nutrients are tightly bound and they’re not released into the

surface water very easily, but when humans come they disturb the soil. There’s lots of mobilization of nutrients and they all end up in the lake. And that’s what causes the algae blooms. The trout die.”

“Part of the solution is restoring native vegetation to the lake. You want some plants in the lake. You don’t want it to be like a swimming pool, you want some native plants that provide habitat for fish and compete with the algae for nutrients. So one of the things we’ll try to do is to reestablish vegetation in the lake.”

Mark is working on the first phase of the project, which involves collecting data about the lake water. “The sampling is one year. We started in February-March [2019] so we’ll sample through March [2020] and after the sampling is done we turn the data over to a consultant who will evaluate all the alternatives to the analysis and come up with the plan.”



Mark tests the water in Lone Lake

To collect the data, Mark collects lake water and measures its temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and other parameters. He makes the measurements with a multi-probe instrument. To comply with strict quality assurance protocols from the Department of Ecology, the multi-probe needs to be calibrated regularly to ensure that the data is accurate.

Mark says “Each one of the parameters we measure has a protocol in place for how to assure that the data is accurate. The one thing I didn’t have was a certified thermometer.”

Fortunately for Mark, the president of the local homeowner’s association is a Fluke associate. That Fluke associate donated a Fluke Calibration 1551A-EX Stik Thermometer Readout, a digital readout with accuracy of ± 0.05 °C (± 0.09 °F) over full range. The Stik is battery operated, portable and ideally suited for working

outside. It comes with a NVLAP-accredited report of calibration, which provides the certification that Mark was looking for. This donation enabled Mark to bring accurate and reliable data to the project to improve the environment of Lone Lake.

“It works great,” says Mark. “It’s much better than any other certified thermometer. At the university, when we did this [type of work] we had a certified thermometer but this one is much nicer than anything we ever had.”



Mark uses a 1551A-EX Stik Thermometer to calibrate the multi-probe

Mark uses the Stik thermometer each time he measures. “Calibrate before we go out and then we check the calibration when we come back. We have a data sheet that we record the calibration information on. That will end up in a report. We’ll use that report as a basis for other grants to get money to actually implement the plan. We need really high quality data [that] backs up the report and the recommendations to apply for grants to actually implement.”

Why take on a multi-year challenge like this instead of just kicking back and enjoying his retirement? Mark muses, “I have always liked water. I grew up on a lake and liked to swim in it and that sort of thing, and then I was just interested in ecology. I sort of gravitated to water and ended up studying lakes for my whole career. And I really like the applied management aspects of it, not just the basic science but the applied or problem solving aspects of these sorts of projects.”

It’s a testament to what one man, a concerned community, and the right tools can do.

~Robert Young



Washington Fly Fishing Club

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August, 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 August 20th. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month:

Artifishal is a film about people, rivers, and the fight for the future of wild fish and the environment that supports them. It explores wild salmon's slide toward extinction, threats posed by fish hatcheries and fish farms, and our continued loss of faith in nature.