

# Creel Notes from the



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

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)

Member of



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## President's Riffle

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020, the start of a new decade. A decade of enjoying the club's fly-fishing fel-



lowship and continue to work towards the WFFC's founding "mission to provide resources to members, improve fisheries and habitat, and develop a public conservation ethic through fly fishing".

In February, you will be emailed a WFFC Performance and Improvements survey. We are hoping to gain feedback from participants on how the club is doing regarding its dinner meetings, outings, conservation and youth activities and what could be done better to support your Fly Fishing interests.

Your survey input will be used by the Board and Committee Chairs to know what needs to be improved on and what is currently working well, so please respond to the survey!

The Christmas Holiday Fundraiser was a resounding success. Congratulations and many thanks to Deborah Katz, her Committee, Kris Kristofferson, as moderator, Keith Robins, as auctioneer, and a cast of support individuals for made the event so fun and successful! We generated significant donations to fund the WFFC's and Foundation's 2020 mission activities. To see how much was raised, in February, login to the members only WFFC.com website and click on the "Board & Committee Members"

tile and at the bottom of the page click on the 2020 Board Meeting Minutes to find the auction results.

I hope to see you all at the January 21st Awards Dinner Meeting which will also have guest Speaker Lael Johnson, of Fly Gyde. He will be speaking about "Fishing Glacial Waters"---The Queets, Hoh, Kitimat, and Santa Cruse in South America.

Just a heads-up, the January through November 2020 dinners at the Seattle Tennis Club will now be served as Buffet Meals. We made this switch so that we could maintain the \$37 meals price again this year. This will mean that you will need to go through a buffet line to pick your food choices and go fetch your own water and coffee. This approach greatly reduced the labor costs for our dinners at the STC. The Christmas Holiday Dinner will be served at our tables, as it has for the last 11 years.

Looking forward to being your 2020 President –  
Jim Goedhart

## Inside this Issue

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Page 6...While You were Hibernating, the Hagens were Hauling in the Big Fish in Louisiana Waters

# The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

by Bob Young

As many of you know I am on the staff of the Academy and spend a week in camp every year in late June. Also, the WFFC Foundation and recently the WFFC have been supporters with cash donations. A large amount of funding support is provided by the Washington Council of the Fly Fishers International.

As part of the agenda, each grad is asked to write a "Thank You" note to one of our many supporters. Recently one of these notes was mis-addressed to the Foundation and ended up in my hands. This is what a young lad of

13 from Washugall, WA had to say:

"Dear the WFFC foundation

Thank you for giving me this amazing chance to go to this camp which has made me a better fly fish and a greater person. It has changed the way I will fish and the amount of times I will go fishing. It has also changed the way I would act around friends and family and I can't thank you enough. Sincerely; Tanner H."

I am very thankful for this program and the WFFC's continued support. Applications are being accepted for 2020 and the forms are available on the NWCFFA web site.

## The Graduating Class of 2019



Photo by Bob Young

## Journalist, Environmentalist, and Author to speak in February

Lynda V. Mapes is a reporter at the Seattle Times, where she specializes in coverage of the environment. Over the course of her career she has won numerous national and regional awards, including the 2019 and 2012 first place international awards from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest professional science association.

She has written five books, including *Elwha*, a River Reborn about the largest dam removal project ever in history and the effort to revive a wilderness water-

shed in Washington's Olympic National Park, and its once legendary salmon runs. In 2013-14 Lynda was awarded a 9-month Knight fellowship in Science Journalism at MIT. In 2014-15, she was a Bullard Fellow at the Harvard Forest, exploring the human and natural history of a single, 100-year old oak to write *Witness Tree*, published by the University of Washington Press in 2019. Her forthcoming book on the southern resident orca whales' struggle to survive will be published by the Mountaineers Books in spring of 2021. In addition to

## Creel Notes

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

her staff position as lead environment reporter at the Seattle Times, Lynda is an associate of the Harvard Forest of Harvard University, in Petersham, MA. She was recognized by NOAA Fisheries in 2016 with the prestigious Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award for her reporting on fish and habitat. She lives in Seattle.



## On the Fly

### The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich  
& Deb Katz

December 17,  
2019 - Fabulous  
fundraiser!



Like many of you, I look forward to dressing up, putting a few lucky bets on the raffles, getting my paddle ready, and enjoying the companionship of many long time and new friends. I might quibble a little with opening the red wine before the main course has arrived, and I'm still looking for my coaster, but hey, these are little things. A great event!

From here on, let me give over the space to Deborah Katz, our hero of this and many other Christmas parties. She reports:

"Many hours of preparation, many helping hands and MANY, MANY generous donors and shoppers resulted in a festive, lucrative and satisfying "Fundraiser 2019."

"As the nominal boss of this event, I want to give special thanks to Jim and Caroline Goedhart for amazing tech support before, during and afterwards.

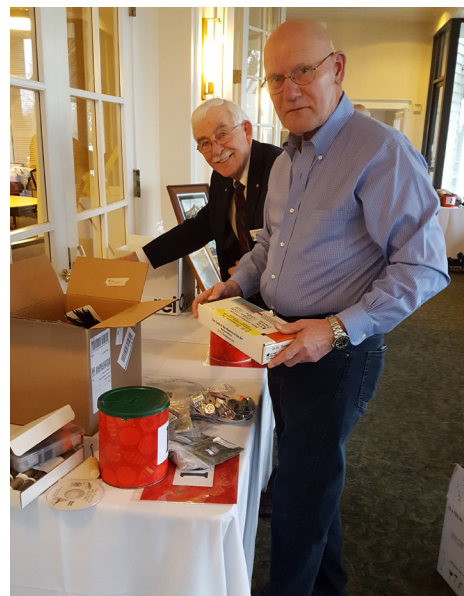
Their combined computer savvy and energy is unmatched.

"We were lucky to have Kris Kristoferson and Keith Nelson as the dynamic duo that managed the live auction but only after Pete Baird entertained us with yet one more Robert Service poem. I want to know how Pete does that when I can barely remember my kids' names.

"I don't want to extend thanks to each amazing donor or contributor to the evening because I'll forget someone and that would be terrible. However, the fly box crew headed by Dick Brening and Chuck Ballard (*to the right along with Gary Bergquist*) produced an amazing array of boxes full of beautiful flies. Those two get a special shout out for the display they put together.

#### WFFC Fly Box Raffle 2019 Tiers

**Neal Hoffberg:** 3 Last Chance Cripples;  
3 Adult Spinners; 3 Spent Spinners  
**Bob Birkner:** 12 Steviemids  
**Mark Pratt :** 12 Olive Willys  
**Ron Dion:** 4 Prince Nymphs; 4 Olive Willys; 4 Compara Duns  
**Robert Tovar:** 6 Summer Steal Swingers  
**Chuck Ballard:** 8 Foamwing Chopaka Mays; 6 Gold Strikes  
**David Hart:** 12 Euro Nymphs  
**Jim McRoberts:** 3 Gren molten Metals; 3 Summer Berrys  
**Denny Westover:** 12 Euro



#### Nymph Collection

**Walt Swanson:** 6 BWO Biot Nymphs; 6 BWO Emergers  
**Gary Bergquist:** 12 Bud's Grouse Pupae  
**Scott Hagen:** 6 Artificial Intelligence  
**Hugh Clark:** 6 Lightning Bug Hoppers; 6 Lightning bug Droppers

#### Boxes Crafted by Tom Neu and Dick Brening



Lily Cutler and Pat Becker (right) prepare for the raffle, while Ms. Cutler prepares to shut down the silent auction.

"Lily Cutler, 3rd VP for 2020, was learning the ropes as my extra pair of hands. Please give her the same support that you gave me for the last two years!

"Pat Becker got us all seated and in our proper plac-





*Peter Baird gives Robert Service the respect the great Canadian poet deserves.*

es - which is NOT an easy job.

"I would like to extend a special shout out to all of you who have contributed guided trips or your second homes year after year as auction favorites. You are MY favorites.

"In spite of some last minute change of plans on our part, the Seattle Tennis Club staff did an wonderful job of accommodating our needs without blink-

ing an eye. Kudos to them - plus the food was extra tasty, in my opinion.

"Thank you again. Its a huge job, but the help and support from so many folks makes it interesting, fun and, in the end, rewarding as heck."

I would like to extend thanks to the commercial donors listed below.

Please patronize these establishments and let them know that we appreciate their generous contributions.

**Avid Angler**

**Creekside**

**Outdoor Emporium**

**Misty Mountain Mfg (for our personalized duffles!! Thank you!!)**

**Patricks Fly Shop**

**Solid Rock Outfitters (first time donor)**

**Reds Fly Shop**

**Seattle Skeet and Trap**

**Steelhead Diner**

**Hedges Winery**

**Sage**

Without them, we wouldn't be able to accomplish all that we do.

## **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.

## **The 2020 Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy**

Applications are being accepted until April 15th for the 2020 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must write an essay explaining why "they" want to attend the Academy and a letter of recommendation is required from their school counselor or science teacher.

The dates for the WCTU and WSCF-FI supported event, are June 21-27, 2020. The last full week of June. The week long Academy will be held at

The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. To learn more about "The Academy," go to [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com).

The application is available on the website or contact Mike Clancy @ [nwycffa@comcast.net](mailto:nwycffa@comcast.net) or Jim Brosio @ [brosioj@q.com](mailto:brosioj@q.com).

This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and the basics of fly fishing. We are also on Facebook. No youth will be turned away because of funding.

## **The Feather Thief Book Club**

Third Place Books at Lake Forest Park Towne Center will host this month's Literary Book Club to discuss *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson on Monday January 27th at 7PM.

This is the true story of Edwin Rist, a professional musician who stole hundreds of bird skins from the British Museum.



## Awards

### January Ceremony to Highlight Next Meeting

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

At our January members' meeting we will be recognizing various individuals who have distinguished themselves through service to the Club and the fly fishing community during the year 2019. The presentation of at least one of this will be deferred to the February meeting. In any event, both meetings will also feature a regular program. Please see the information about the January speaker elsewhere in these Creel Notes.

The Club's Awards include the following:

Letcher Lambuth Award, given to a flyfisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for original,

significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing--we will be presenting this Award to Rick Hafele at the February meeting;

Empty Creel Award, presented to a member of the Club for exceptional dedication and contribution to the welfare of the Club; and

Half-assed Award, presented to a member for, well, you know--this was presented last year to Ron Little, who was not at the ceremonies and has disavowed any knowledge of the occurrence, but has agreed to find an appropriate recipient and make a presentation at a subsequent meeting.

The Awards Committee reserves the right to present special Awards recognizing others for their accomplishments and contributions and will be doing so.

We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.



No stranger to the Awards Ceremony, Chuck Ballard (right) receives a special award last year from Awards Chair, Bill Neal

### BOYD AIGNER COMPETITION FOR 2020

By: Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

The Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2020 is underway. The objective of the Competition is to permit each participant to demonstrate his or her creativity and tying skills. Each participant is to submit a "best" fly in each of three categories. As before, the Members of the Club will be the judges.

Here are the 2020 patterns:

- 1) Sculpin, any size hook;
- 2) "Balanced" leech, size 8 jig hook--3XL, if available, otherwise, standard 8;
- 3) Female Adams. size 14 hook.

The schedule for the Competition is as follows:

February Members' Meeting display boxes distributed

April Members' Meeting flies due

May Members' Meeting judging

June Members' Meeting winners announced

The winner will receive the special WFFC pin developed for the Competition, as well as having his or her name 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.

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Bob: (h) 206.329.5948; [reburdick@comcast.net](mailto:reburdick@comcast.net)



## Fishing Reports

### NOLA

by Scott Hagen

Stephanie and I arrived in New Orleans on Wednesday, December 11, around 5:00 PM. We, and some others, were met by Mark Shimazu and Dave Jenkins of The Avid Angler. We arrived at our B&B in the French Quarter and walked into the restaurant and had some terrific food and drink. Some of the group then went bar hopping, Stef and I walked back to the house and relaxed.

Since the weather forecast indicated clouds and wind for Thursday, we arrived in Hopedale at 10:00, we were met by our guide, loaded into his 17' skiff and endured a 40 minute run out into the marsh. Conditions were tough; no sun and a pretty good chop, making it almost impossible to see the fish before they saw the boat. I finally got a shot at a big redfish and blew it, lining the fish and spooking it. A few minutes later we spotted a huge black drum. I made a pretty good cast and stripped the crab pattern across in front of his nose. He ate it. After a rather lethargic fight, the guide tailed it and estimated it's weight to be 42 pounds, by far the biggest black drum I have ever landed. After lunch, we spooked a fish with the boat. I cast in front of where the wake from the fish ended, made a couple of strips and was fast to a sheepshead. It put up a better fight than the drum. The guide, Jason, said it weighed about eight



pounds, again by far the biggest one I have ever landed. The fishing day ended about 3:30PM with Stephanie only getting in a couple of casts during her time up on the platform. Another great meal in the French Quarter.

Friday we were up earlier and met by Jason at the Hopedale marina about 8:30. Visibility to see fish was even worse. The only ones we saw were the ones we spooked. After lunch we had a downpour of cold rain and I found out that my water proof pants weren't and got to spend the rest of the day soaked from the waist down. We quit early. After we got back to the house, a long hot shower felt good.

Saturday the weather forecast was for calm winds and clearing in the afternoon. Stef and I, along with Mark and Malcolm drove about 50 miles into Mississippi to a little town called Ocean Shores. We launched there, going about 30 miles out into the Gulf to the Chandelier Islands. The bottom was very different there, hard white sand instead of the black muck in the salt marsh. Visibility was much better, almost no chop. There were lots of fish, you could see them "tailing" as they rooted around for crabs in one to three feet of water. That said, they weren't easy. They were spooky and picky, many times seeing the fly, turning and following it and then turning away at the last moment. I probably had forty "shots", fifteen times when they followed the fly, and only

three times they ate it. That resulted in the three biggest redfish I have ever landed, all at 25 pounds. They all took me out into the backing and bent my nine weight rod to the cork. What fun! Stef and Mark got blanked, Malcolm got one about 17 pounds.

We were back out to Hopedale on Sunday. It was very busy, I have never seen that many boats there. Weather was sunny and warm, but breezy. We saw a few fish, but never got a decent shot at them. Nobody did well today except Mark, he landed a 60 pound black drum. It looked big enough in the photo we thought he should have tried to ride it!! Another great meal in New Orleans.

Monday we packed up and left the house at 11:00, had a great brunch and then a long wait at the airport for our flight home.

Above, Scott hauls in a red fish, left, Scott shows off a black drum with guide, Boe. Below, Jason holds up Scott's sheepsheads (it bites!).





**Washington Fly Fishing Club**

**P.O. Box 639**

**Mercer Island, WA 98040**

**[www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)**

**January, 2020**

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

**This month: Awards Ceremony. Wear your fancy duds, bring your, bring a little cash to wet your whistle and propose a toast, and find out what it takes to win the "Half Assed" award, the "Empty Creel" and other moments that will enshrine you into club lore.**