

Creel Notes from the



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

www.wffc.com

Founding Club of the FFF & members active in the FFF

Monthly Meeting Notice

December 19, 2000

L No. 12

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM



WFFC

2000 HOLIDAY BANQUET & RAFFLE

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 19, 2000
THE COLLEGE CLUB OF SEATTLE
505 MADISON STREET
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104



PREVIEW OF EVENTS

- 5:30 PM: Wet Fly Practice, Smoked Salmon, Raffle Tickets Sales, Review Auction Items
- 7:00 PM: Dinner: Choice of Prime Rib or Salmon with all the customary embellishments.
- Awards ceremony
- Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction

RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL - YOU NEED TO RESERVE NOW IF YOU PLAN TO EAT! FORMS WERE INCLUDED IN THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER CREEL NOTES. IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT YOURS IN CALL BOB BIRKNER BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!

In This Issue

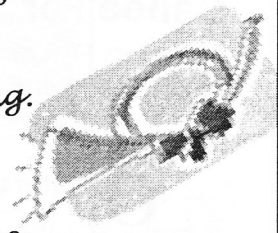
Club News	2
President's Riffle	2
Fly of the Month	3
Fishing Reports	4
Conservation Report	5
In Retrospect	6
WFFC Calendar	7

The Stranger

by Carl F. Schneider, from the Kamloops Flyfishers by way of the FFF web page. Slightly enhanced by your Editor.

Who's the stranger, Mother dear?
Look - he knows us. Ain't that queer?
Hush, my son, don't talk so wild;
He's your father, dearest child.
He's my father! No such thing!!
Father died 'way back last spring.

Father didn't die, poor cub,
He just joined a fishing club.
But now the season's closed, so he
(Sworn to keep the law, you see)
Has no streams on which to roam.
That is why he's come back home.
Kiss him - he won't bite you child,
ALL those fishing nuts look wild!



WFFC Beginning Fly Tying Class for 2001

by Don Simonson

Fly tying classes start early next year in a new location:

DATE AND TIME: Thursday January 4, 2001, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

DURATION: 8 weeks every Thursday evening ending February 22, 2000

PLACE: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E., Mercer Island, WA

COST: \$30.00

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: All participants must enroll in advance. A fly pattern will be taught and tied on the first evening; materials and equipment must be available then.

For more information or to register call: 206-932-4925

For Sale!

By Dean Ingram, Ghillie

The following items are normally for sale at the WFFC general membership meetings. What a great deal! STOCK UP TODAY.

Item	Price
Shirt, WFFC logo, blue denim	\$25.00
Cap, WFFC logo, tan denim	\$10.00
Fly Box, WFFC logo	\$10.00
Belt Buckle, WFFC logo	\$10.00
Patch, WFFC logo	\$5.00
Decal, WFFC logo	\$2.00

Canoe For Sale

Sears 17-ft Aluminum Canoe. Excellent condition. Paddles included. Call Jim McRoberts at (425) 643-2743.

Only after the last tree has been cut down.

Only after the last river has been poisoned.

Only after the last fish has been caught.

Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten.

An old Cree Indian saying

More Club News

by Bob Birkner, WFFC Treasurer, video guru and rod builder

Please get all outstanding WFFC bills for the year 2000 to the Treasurer, Bob Birkner, as soon as possible so we can get them all taken care of before year end.

The Club now owns a Sony DCR-TRV20 digital video camera. It's already been used for an interview by the Heritage Committee and will soon be used for the fly tying classes that start in January 2001. We also have a heavy duty tripod contributed by Curt Jacobs. Thank you Curt. The camera has a still picture capability that will be used to take pictures of new members and others who do not currently have their pictures in the club roster. There should be other uses for this fine piece of equipment too.

Rod Building Class (or Round Table). If you have any interest in building your own graphite rod and would like to do so in the company of other club members, contact Don Simonson or Bob Birkner. We are looking for a location that would allow rods to remain rotating on drying jigs between sessions. If such a location is not available we could do most of the construction as a group and take the rods home to do the epoxy finish and drying. Suggestions are welcome. If there is interest and the sessions work out OK, we may make classes available to the public.



President's Riffle

by Greg Crumbaker, WFFC President

The WFFC is a group of men who are brought together by a love of fly fishing. However, once together, it has been my observation that our interests and concerns, like the ring in the rise, quickly expand. Working together we become richer. Our interests and concerns move beyond fishing places and techniques. We become involved in conservation projects, legislative issues, education of youth, the health and welfare of our senior members, the history of our Club, other organizations like the FFF and CELP. We become more concerned for each other. We reach higher goals and achieve more than we could as individuals; we become successful in what we're trying to do. As we work and socialize together we reach out a little further; we relax and enjoy the company of one another.

It's said that it is tough to like others if you don't feel good about yourself. This is probably true. But no matter how a member is feeling when he enters a group of other Club members, be it a general meeting, a committee meeting, the Camlin, a Roundtable or an outing, spirits

See RIFFLE on page 4.

FFF FLY OF THE MONTH

The Soft-Hackle: An Old Fly, Re-invented Again and Again

from the FFF ClubWire, by Jim Abbs

Students of history find that brand new ideas are really quite rare. Rather, many new developments are just new additions to old ideas or just old ideas re-cycled. Fly patterns are no exception. Moreover, when certain fly pattern styles turn up again and again, it generally means that the look or the behavior of a group of insects is being especially well-imitated. Perhaps there has been no idea in fly pattern design as enduring as the soft hackle wet fly.

Consider the history of this favorite fly of many modern trout anglers, the soft hackle nymph. In the last decade, Sylvester Nemes published a book called *The Soft Hackled Addict* (1993). However, this book was an outgrowth of an earlier book (1975) by Mr. Nemes entitled simply, *The Soft Hackled Fly*. Mr. Nemes' first book on soft hackles offered a review of the tying of soft hackle flies and their history. According to some sources, Nemes was influenced by Paul Young of Michigan who sold hackled (not winged) nymphs, based upon patterns from James Leisenring of Pennsylvania. In addition, just a few years before Nemes' book (in 1971), Vernon Hidy worked with that legendary James Leisenring to write yet another book entitled, *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph*. This book also focused on so-called "Soft-hackle nymphs". Hidy's book, however, was a revised version of a yet earlier book by James Leisenring alone, entitled, *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly*. So where did Leisenring get his ideas? Leisenring was a student of the English fly tyers and most students of fly pattern history believe that these flies originated in the Border Counties of Britain, in the regions between Northern England and Scotland, maybe as long as 500 years ago.

Obviously while this history is interesting to many, the key question may be why are these simple patterns so enduring and effective. Basically, Leisenring and his predecessors recognized that trout like to feed on insects that are in the transition stage from nymph form to adult form, sometimes called emergers. These insect forms do not have wings, leading to the idea of a wet fly without wings, but with legs fully apparent. If these legs are imitated by soft hackle, they move in a natural, enticing way, capturing the quivering natural pattern that makes this fly so effective.

There are many specific patterns that belong to the soft-hackle family. The oldest are flies like the Partridge and Green or Partridge and Orange, with other colors used to imitate different species of insects. Other popular flies of the soft-hackle style include the Breadcrust, Carey Special, Tup's Indispensable, Starling Herl, and others. These kinds of flies are thought by some to imitate caddis emergers (Dave Hughes), but other authors report using them very successfully in the early stages of mayfly hatches (Gary Borger). No matter what insects the soft-hackle patterns are supposed to imitate, they are found in the fly boxes of many expert trout anglers. Obviously, soft hackles, because of their universal appeal, also represent very good searching patterns when there are no hatches.

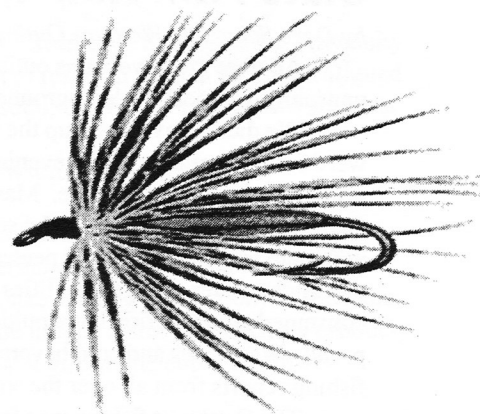
The most famous soft hackle flies include patterns that long have been popular in England, including the Partridge and Orange, Partridge and Green and Partridge and Yellow. These fly names refer simply to hackle (partridge) and to the color of the body. The other appeal to soft hackle nymphs is that they are not only deadly, but very easy to tie.

MATERIALS

Hook: Sizes 10-18, Mustad 9671, Tiemco 200, 5262
Thread: Color to match body color
Body: Floss or fur in olive, green, orange, yellow or brown
Thorax: Optional fur dubbing
Legs: Soft fibered feathers from a gray or brown partridge, grouse, hen

TYING STEPS:

1. Lay down a layer of thread back 1/3 the distance from the eye to the end of the hook. Tie in floss (about 5-7 strands, depending on thickness of body desired) and wrap forward to tie-in point. Carry out similar construction with dubbing with body extending from bend of the hook to tie-in point.
2. Add thorax, extending over first third of floss body. If the body is constructed from dubbing rather than floss, the thorax can simply be an increased concentration of dubbing from the tie-in point back 1/3 the distance toward the bend of the hook.
3. Select a large feather with fibers that extend in length from just beyond the eye to the bend of the hook. Some of the soft-hackle flies use shorter or longer fibers, depending upon what you find most effective.
4. Fold the fibers from the two sides of the quill so both are at right angles to that quill. Pull off those fibers from the quill (another option is to leave the fibers on the quill) with a quantity necessary to give the desired density of hackle.
5. Lay the fibers on one side of the hook and begin to tie them down, slowly distributing the fibers around the hook at the same time. The key to this "distribution wrap" is to keep the tension on the thread fairly low. Apply a second wrap to secure the fibers, pushing the fibers so they are as evenly distributed as possible. Stroke the fibers back toward the hook bend after each thread wrap.
6. Clip the butt ends of the fibers, whip finish and apply head cement. Go fishing.



Fishing Reports

Wet Buns Outing, Joemma State Park Nov. 4,5.

by Dave Schorsch, Wetbuns Outing Chairman pro tem

Another great wet buns outing took place at the unusually dry Joemma campgrounds.

We didn't have to set up the canopy and the stars were out on a mild Saturday evening. There were about thirty members in attendance. Master Chef Dick Stearns did his usual bang-up job on the sea food bouillabaisse with help from choppers and peelers back from a windy day on the water. Large quantities of food and drink were consumed around a fire that would have made Boyd Aigner proud. Warm toes and cold beverages brought out the fishing reports from all over the south sound area.

The Cutthroat fishing was fairly good off the beach at the park for the Nyerges crew who fished Thursday and Friday before the wind came up. The silvers were done in Vaughn Bay, but a few respectable cutthroat were taken by the members who braved the weather there on Saturday. Same story for those that tried other places. North Bay, Rocky Bay, and Squaxin Island were all better suited to wind surfing than fly casting Saturday. One member even drove down to the Satsop River rather than fight the wind. He arrived late, babbling about big hooknosed silvers and groping for beer. Karlovich is like that.

Sunday dawned clear and calm, with most of the sound like a mill pond. Just long enough to lure many of us unsuspecting fly casters out a ways before the typhoons hit again around 10:00. The author of this report spent seven hours on the water, in several good locations, to net just five cutthroat. One of those fish, however, was a big female in full autumn form. The kind that compels you to do these things.

All in all, a drier, windier wet buns outing than usual. Not a lot of fish, but a really good time. Thanks to everybody that helped out and shared stories around the campfire. See you next year.

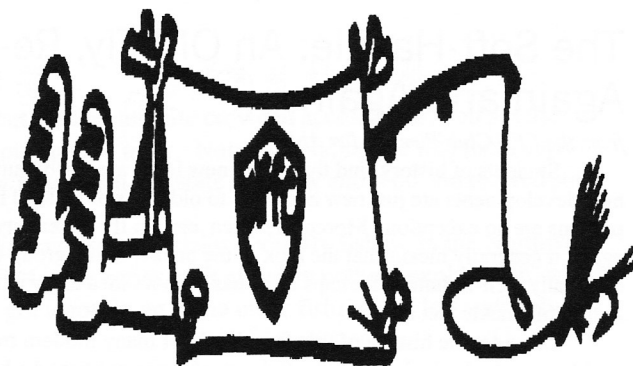
Dave Schorsch

RIFFLE continued from

rise. We feel good being together. This elevating spirit makes us what we are ... a great Club. Now I have no explanation for this, but I do know it's unique and it's given me two very enjoyable years serving as your president. I thank you all for this pleasure and this honor. The Club has a new slate of very capable officers for the New Year and the goodwill and good works will continue.

My last request as your president is that each of you, your families and loved ones, have a very special Holiday Season and happy, healthy and successful New Year.

Greg Crumbaker
President, Year 2000



Flies of the Year 2000

from Flatland Fly Fishers, Wichita, KS, November, 2000

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in Livingston Manor, New York is assembling an exhibit of fishing flies from the turn of the century. You could call it a year in the world history of fly tying.

Imagine discovering a trove of fishing flies from the year 1900 with the pattern proportions, the materials, and the construction details. Unfortunately, such a trove has not yet been uncovered. (Where has this guy been? Ed.) To keep this from happening to future generations, the fly tiers of the world are being invited to contribute their favorite flies of the year 2000 in one or more of the following categories: dry, wet, nymph, streamer, salmon, steelhead, bass or saltwater. The resulting collection will be the greatest ever assembled in the world.

According to a notice placed on page 29 of the fall edition of *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*, this is not a fly-tying competition and all flies will be displayed in order of receipt.

To take your place in history and join some of the world's greatest fly tiers, send your fly or flies to the address below with a 3 X 5 card listing the following details:

- Name
- Address
- City, State, Zip
- Signature
- Pattern Name
- Category
- Pattern Ingredients
- Thread
- Hook

Mail to:
CFFCM
P.O. Box 1295
Livingston Manor, NY 12758

All flies will become the property of the CFFC and Museum and will be used to benefit the center. For more information call: (914) 436-4810; or fax: (914) 439-3387; and if you're online, check www.cffcm.org or e-mail: flyfish@catskill.net.

Conservation

Conservation Committee Annual Report Calendar Year 2000

by Doug Schaad, Conservation Committee Co-chairman

Educational Initiatives:

Initiated a 5-year program of support for graduate students in the Center for StreamSide Studies at the University of Washington. This competitive program provides a minimum of \$1000 for support of research studies which are aligned with the mission of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. During the calendar year of 2000, the WFFC funded two students at \$1000 each. The two students and their projects are:

Jennifer MacLean: An Assessment of Wild and Hatchery Steelhead Interactions Within Forks Creek.

Jon Honea: The Impact of Marine Derived Nutrients on Macrobiotic Nutrients

Jennifer's study will provide morphologic and genetic data relevant to the debate concerning hatchery and wild steelhead interactions. Specifically, Jennifer will be able to determine the genetic heritage of all steelhead returning to Forks Creek. This will allow her to assess marine survival and reproductive fitness (size and egg production) of the three categories of interest: wild fish, hatchery fish and wildXhatchery hybrids. Due to the unique history of hatchery production within Forks Creek, Jennifer's study is expected to provide definitive data that will inform the entire Northwest salmonid restoration process.

Jon's study looks at the value of salmon carcasses in providing base nutrients for the production of mayflies, caddis flies and other insects important to the survival of anadromous fishes. In Jon's study, he will be looking at the differential in insect production above and below a falls that blocks chum salmon migration. It is expected that Jon's study will inform resource managers regarding the potential benefit of distributing spent hatchery carcasses throughout the rivers of the Puget Sound basin.

In addition to the support detailed above, the WFFC also paid Jennifer's registration and lodging fees for the annual meeting of the American Water Resources Association meeting held in Portland, Oregon. Anonymous members of the WFFC augmented these payments by providing food and mileage allowances for the meeting.

Riparian Restoration:

Following a successful activity in 1999, the WFFC collaborated with King County in planting trees, shrubs and streamside vegetation along Griffin Creek. Due to the inability to independently schedule the timing of these events (e.g. they were scheduled against the Dry Falls outings), these hands-on events were sparsely attended. Despite this initial setback, the WFFC Conservation Committee has determined that the restoration of the Waterways 2000 site on Griffin Creek should be a **MAJOR PRIORITY!**

In this regard, Grant Hendrickson has met with Bob Spencer of King County and outlined a work plan for the calendar year 2001. As part of Grant's negotiations, we are now the official stewards of the Waterways 2000 site. As stewards, we have both the obligation and the responsibility for maintaining this riparian area. Along with those obligations comes the ability to have King County join us in our efforts on the weekends of **our choosing**. Expect a minimum of 3 weekend outings during calendar year 2001!

WDFW:

Within the last calendar year, the WFFC Conservation Committee has written numerous letters to the WDFW Commission including:

Extensive commentary on proposed changes in rules and regulations

Support for a statewide ban on the taking of wild steelhead

Support for a scientific congress to address the issues of wild versus hatchery steelhead and reproductive success.

A ban on the use of treble hooks in pursuit of the anadromous fish of Puget Sound

See CONSERVATION on page 6.

The *Creel Notes* is a publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscriptions are free with membership. Articles and other materials appropriate for publication in *Creel Notes* may be sent to: *Creel Notes* Editor, 810 Crown Drive, Everett, WA 98203-1801, E-mail to bboard@gte.net (E-mail is preferred). This issue of *Creel Notes* was produced by Bill Boardman. *Creel Notes* is printed by the second Tuesday of the month; article submissions must be received by the previous Friday. Mail roster updates directly to Roman Millett, 2725 161st Pl. S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012-7877. The WFFC may be visited on the internet at <http://www.wffc.com>.

In Retrospect

In The Good Old Days...

from WFFC Creel Notes vol. XXI #12, December, 1972

Sometimes when you look around at the dams, the clear-cut patches and the crowded access areas, you get the feeling that you were born too late and missed the best this country had to offer. Notwithstanding the fact that Ralph Wahl maintains that "fishing always has been poor," there was a time when our state was new and wild and offered some truly virgin angling.

One who visited it then was Charles H. Merry, and he wrote a series of articles about fly fishing in the Northwest which appeared in a magazine called the American Angler in 1884. The series ends abruptly without explanation, which leads one to wonder if the editor got tired of Merry or if Merry got a hot tip on some other fishing and left suddenly to take advantage of it.

Anyway, in the July 10, 1884 issue of the American Angler, Merry wrote:

"Back of Seattle are two lakes, the smallest of which is Lake Union, about five miles long, which contains no fish of the Salmo family. Ten miles east (sic—it may have seemed like 10 miles in those days) is Lake Washington, a magnificent sheet of water 14 miles long and six miles wide. This lake is spring fed and contains two varieties of trout, one of which is the coarse red-meated fish commonly caught in brackish waters (cutthroat?), the other a species of trout, frequently taken in the streams of eastern Oregon where it is known as the "bull trout" (almost certainly the Dolly Varden). It has an ugly wolfish head, with very strong jaws and prominent teeth. It is dark brown on the back with silvery sides and crimson spots as large as a half dime. It has never been known to take a fly and is usually taken with salmon spawn or grubs from decayed trees. In the streams east of the Cascades it seldom exceeds three pounds in weight, but in Lake Washington it sometimes reaches the weight of ten pounds. (On second thought, perhaps this was the squawfish that Don Gulliford keeps telling us about.)

"Leaving Puget Sound, and passing southward by the Northern Pacific R.R. you come to a number of small lakes scattered over the prairie of Pierce County which is most gravelly soil. All these lakes are spring fed, and wherever they have outlets to the sound are liberally stocked with three or more varieties of trout. The first of these is Gravelly Lake, where is situated the beautiful country seat of Capt. J.C. Ainsworth, a retired steamboat millionaire. This lake contains no trout but the Captain has stocked it with black bass, some of which are now a year old (presumably they are now 89 years old).

"Chamber's Lake also lies in Pierce County, about half a mile from Media Station and can hardly be called a lake proper. It is rather an aneurism of Muck Creek which flows through several hundred acres of sunken ground...It was in this lake that Captain George Ainsworth caught his great six-pound trout which undoubtedly was one of the Red-sided persuasion commonly taken in the Mackenzie (sic). The fish had a bright scarlet band over an inch wide on either side and there is no recorded case of any like fish being taken in that lake in the last seven years. All the crack fly fishers around Olympia have tried Chamber's Lake and pronounced it the most dangerous and exciting sport they have ever had."

So this is a glimpse of the way things were in the Old Days. Maybe Ralph Wahl was right.

CONSERVATION continued from page 5.

Other:

In addition to the above, the WFFC, through the Conservation Committee:

Renewed the WFFC membership in the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) and provided a significant contribution to the WEC.

Renewed the WFFC membership in the Center for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP), provided a significant donation (\$400) and stimulated a 'matching program' for membership contributions to CELP.

Conservation Committee members Bill Redman and Jim McRoberts testified at the NMFS hearings on the 27th of January.

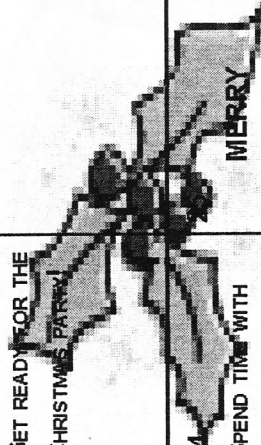
The Seattle Times writer Mark Yuasa recognized the work of the WFFC in helping to create a new quality water on Lone Lake (Whidbey Island).

Recommended that WFFC Librarian Jack Hutchinson purchase Salmon Without Rivers: A History of the Pacific Salmon Crisis by Jim Lichatowich.

Provided testimony supporting the Island County Marine Resources Committee in their application to map the forage fish (herring, candlefish) spawning area in North Puget Sound.

Provided \$400 to the Steelhead Committee of the FFF to help underwrite The Osprey.

DECEMBER 2000 - JANUARY 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY	11	12	13 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	14	15	16 Go Fishing!
17 GET READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!	18 	19 WFFC CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:30 PM COLLEGE CLUB	20 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	21	22 HAPPY HANUKKAH	23 Go Fishing!
24 SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY	26		27 FLY TYER'S ROUNDTABLE 7:00 PM MERCER IS. COVENANT CHURCH	28 CONSERVATION COM. MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE RAM PUB	29	30 Go Fishing!
31 Go Fishing!	1 JANUARY HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	4 FLY TYING CLASS 7:30 PM MERCER IS. COVENANT CHURCH	5 CREEL NOTES FROZEN	6 Go Fishing!
7 Go Fishing!	8 WFFC BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM COLLEGE CLUB	9	10 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	11 FLY TYING CLASS 7:30 PM MERCER IS. COVENANT CHURCH	12	13 Go Fishing!
14 Go Fishing!	15	16 WFFC DINNER MEETING 5:30 PM COLLEGE CLUB	17 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	18 FLY TYING CLASS 7:30 PM MERCER IS. COVENANT CHURCH	19	20 Go Fishing!