

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

September 19, 2000

L No. 9

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

September Program

by Gene Gudger, Program Chairman

The September program will be a different experience. Like Heritage Night, this program will feature club members who have special skills and are willing to share their knowledge.

The Program

WFFC member and ex-president, Don Simonson, will demonstrate fly casting from the basic stroke to more advanced techniques.

Don started his fly casting career in 1970 by attending the WFFC's fly casting class at Green Lake conducted by Dawn (right foot forward) Holbrook and assisted by Andy Hall. From that year on, he found himself helping with the class and learning something new every session. Don continued to read, study videos, practice and seek Andy's help and council. Then in 1993 the Federation of Fly Fishers started the casting instructor certification program. It got Don's attention and he started practicing, passing the basic instructor certification level in 1995. Don has since graduated from Mike and Denise Maxwell's Gold-N-West Fly Fishing school (fly-casting instructor's course), passed the FFF masters instructor certification level, and has conducted several casting classes and clinics.

Don continues to be a student of fly-casting and strives to understand and explain what the casting process is all about and to demonstrate and teach all facets of casting, whether beginning, intermediate, or advanced. He enjoys teaching specialty, and wind condition casts.

Dinner Discussions (Birds of a Feather)

The dinner format will be changed this month. WFFC's last membership meeting suggested that we find a way to share the significant experience of club members among our group and, as an extension of that, to provide more significant "content" to visitors. To that end, we are going to try an experiment. After going through the salad line, you will be able to choose a "topic table" for dinner. Members with some expertise in a particular topic will host these tables and will lead a discussion on the topic. If you can either add or benefit from the discussion, join that table and participate.

As of this posting the topics and host members will be:

- Charles Judy/Andy Hall – Selecting and evaluating fly rods
- Tim Coleman/Leland Miyawaki – Fall salmon sites and techniques
- Gill Nyerges – Tying and fishing the Nyerges flies (Nyerges nymph and Gil's Monster)
- David Schorsch – South Sound cutthroats
- Don Mills – Unique patterns and techniques for Local Trout fisheries
- Steve Raymond and Pete Baird – Strategies and flies for fishing Dry Falls

Bring a guest, participate and enjoy.

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Casual Dress

Dress code for membership meetings has been under discussion by the WFFC Board of Directors. Pending any formal changes, the dress code for the September membership meeting will be casual attire (coat and tie optional, shorts are inappropriate.)

Boyd Aigner Competition Extended

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

To encourage greater participation, the Club has extended the time for submittal of patterns for the Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition. The new date is the General Members' Meeting on **October 17, 2000**.

The Competition was modified, including a change in the time to have it earlier in the year when, so it was thought, members were suffering from cabin fever and would enjoy the opportunity to get out the vise for some friendly competition. Well, anyhow, it seemed like a good idea, but turnout was low. To the credit of everyone, particularly those who submitted their patterns in time, the unanimous thought was to give others a chance to participate. This is a Club event, after all.

The patterns for this year are a callibaetis dun, size 12; a dragonfly nymph, size 8, and a leech, size 8. Participants may choose or develop their own patterns with judging to be as set forth in the guidelines, including "fishability", action, creativity, degree of difficulty, proportions, and overall tying quality.

For information contact Bill Neal.

(w) (206) 667-8211; (h) (206) 232-0603

WFFC Youth Committee Report

by Youth Co-Chairs Richard Embry and Mike Racine

The WFFC Youth Committee recently completed a program at the Bitter Lake Community Center in North Seattle. Beginning on July 10, the classes were held twice a week in the evenings, with the last class held on July 26. The curriculum included general fly fishing information, entomology, fly casting, and fly tying (of course, the Nyerger Nymph was a key fly taught!).

Traditionally, the Committee has offered this program to youth only. It's always exciting to see the young people leave the program with new information and skills. But, unless the parents actively participate in fishing with the youth, the interest will wane. So, this year we thought we'd try something different and offered a package option to include the parents. The response was very positive; our final student tally ended up as 7 youth and 7 parents, including a set of grandparents! On the final day of the class, I fielded questions from both the parents and the youth wondering when our next class would be held, so they could tell their friends.

Bob Birkner, Steve Sutton, John Olson, Chuck Ballard, and Don Simonson all participated and made the class a success. Thanks, fellas. Special mention and thank you goes to Andy Hall, who helped during nearly every class. We truly are fortunate to have such good people in the WFFC.

Fly Tying Round Table

By Dick Brening

Summer is drawing to a close and it is time to start our fly tying round table meetings. We don't have a theme for the September meeting but I thought it would be a good time to share some new fly patterns that you may have found over the summer. It also may provide an opportunity to finish up those flies for the Boyd Aigner competition that you were intending to tie up all summer long.

Time: Wednesday, September 27th, 7 to 9 PM

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and S.E. 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E.

You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch or just share ideas. If you have any questions on directions contact Pete Baird or me at the club meeting or give me a call. By the way, a community church dinner of good quality is available to all from 5:45 to 7:00 PM for the bargain price of \$2.50 on all Wednesday nights.

New Member Biographies

Brian Hata and Scott Hagen will be voted on at the September meeting.

Brian Hata

I was born in Seattle on December 26th, 1948. I grew up in the Beacon Hill area, where I attended elementary and Jr. High School. I later went to Renton High, where I graduated in 1967. My college years were spent at the University of Washington, where I graduated in 1971. I feel fortunate to have grown up in the Northwest. The chance to experience the outdoors was near at hand and I was first exposed to it with the Boy Scouts. Hiking, camping, boating, campfires- all played a role in those formative years. Today, I actively hike, downhill and cross country ski--and now fly fish.

My earliest memories of trout go back to early childhood with my father. It was a simple bobber and worm affair, off of the pumphouse at the old hatchery at Seward Park. Dad, of course, used a more sophisticated means (to me, anyhow) of catching trout--fly fishing. Fishing for me though, was a sort of on again, off again affair, where quite honestly, it was off until 1997. At that time, I went on a fly fishing trip to the Missouri River. From then on, my interest in fly fishing has blossomed.

Today, I enjoy the various challenges presented by the sport of fly fishing: Still water, rivers, salt water and fly tying.

Club News

Scott Hagen

Born May 4, 1940 in Bellingham, Washington. Graduated from Bellingham High School in 1957. Attended Western Washington College 1957 - 1958. Employed by The Boeing Company 1958 to present. Current position is Senior Manager, Experimental Flight Test and Crew Training Support. I began fly fishing on Rapid Creek in Rapid City, South Dakota in 1968. I borrowed two books from the public library and taught myself to fly fish and tie flies from scratch. I gave up my spinning tackle for good in 1972.

Over the years my wife and I have fly fished in the Western United States, Alaska, British Columbia, New Zealand, and Russia. I consider myself to be a competent fly tyer, and have done a little instructing at the Bellevue-Issaquah Trout Unlimited Club. I am interested in conservation and environmental issues and have done a few things to help out as a member of the Steelhead Committee of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

I have enjoyed the social contact with other fly fishing fanatics at the WFFC meetings and outings I have attended, and have learned something new each time. I hope to contribute to the WFFC in several areas: I can support fly tying and fly casting instruction at Club events, and help to promote the Club's position on conservation and environmental issues. I am a pretty good wood worker, and have the experience and tools to build things in support of Club initiatives. I have experience in public speaking, presentations, and project management.

Dry Falls Lake-October 7-8

by *Donn Mills, Outdoors Chairman*

Got a phone call from Fred DeWitt. "Hear you're a little green at this Outdoor Chair position". That's right Fred, it's been a learning experience. "Well I'm ripe in experience, and I'm going to help you". Fred went on to say that he was going to Dry Falls Lake this fall even if they had to drive him over in an ambulance. He's already got all the wood gathered for the Saturday evening bonfire and steak fry.

The WFFC is gathering the weekend of October 7 & 8, for the fall outing at Dry Falls Lake. Before I joined the WFFC I remember listening to other clubs talking about not going to Dry Falls on the first weekend of October because the Washington club would be there, and they would take up the whole lake.

There's lots of energy going towards returning this outing to the well attended outings of the past, besides, Fred said he was bringing a big pot of his wife's world famous beans, that should be inspiration enough. Look for the sign-up sheet at the September general meeting.

In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of our friend and long-time member Ed Bates. Ed joined the WFFC in 1977, sponsored by Enos Bradner and Dick Stearns. No additional information is available at press time.

Fish Finally Return to Silver Lake

By *Tom Paulu The (Longview) Daily News, submitted by Grant Hendrickson*

Twenty years after Mount St. Helens annihilated all the fish in Spirit Lake, its waters are again teeming with rainbow trout.

Bob Lucas and John Weinheimer of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife tested the lake's waters in late July. "On the second cast, we had a huge fish on," Lucas said. "We had an incredible experience up there." The biggest trout weighed a hefty 7 pounds. In nets the biologists left in the lake overnight, the average weight fish was 2 pounds.

Before Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980, Spirit Lake in the volcano's shadow was a popular fishing spot. The DFW planted rainbow trout every year, and steelhead and coho swam up the Toutle River and spawned in the lake. But the volcano's blast displaced the lake's water, which was heated to temperatures lethal to fish, and decaying organic material in the lake robbed the water of oxygen. Construction of the lake's outlet tunnel helped create a flushing action, and the water quality is now fine for fish.

However, in 1993, Lucas netted a single trout, which he named "Harry," and "Harriet" was captured the following year. Three years ago, a group of biologists found only one trout, which weighed 1 1/4 pounds and was dubbed "Helen." Some scientists theorize that trout survived in a tributary stream of Spirit Lake; Lucas believes someone took it upon himself to plant the lake. "I think the trout were stocked, but you can't rule out anything with Mount St. Helens." In any case, "Harry has produced a gaggle of fish," Lucas said. The fishes' scales show an unusual growth spurt. "Those two to three pound fish are probably only three years old, which is incredible growth," Lucas said. The fish have a bountiful food supply of insects, mollusks and snails.

See SILVER LAKE on page 7.

Fishing Reports

Fishing North of the Arctic Circle in Norway

By Dick Brening

My wife and I just returned from spending a month touring Norway. For three days in mid August I had an opportunity to fly fish about 150 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle. The location was at a rustic, private cabin situated on the banks of a large lake. The lake, known as "lake number seven" was in a chain of seven lakes stretching from the Swedish border down a series of plateau steps and draining into the North Sea via the fjord Sagfjoren. Fishing access was granted by a local farmer who issued a month-long family fishing permit for a few kroners.

My host was Per Heggland who lives here in Seattle but is involved with fish farming around the globe. The cabin belongs to his mother. Per is not a flyfisherman so I was pretty much on my own in trying to figure out just how to approach this particular fishery with artificial flies. Thanks to a rod loan from Lyn Gross I was well equipped with a sporty Hardy Smuggler travel rod and a good selection of fly patterns of my own making. Unfortunately, I can't say that I was all that successful with the catching of fish. I caught quite a few small Brown trout in the 8 to 10 inch range but nothing of any size. Although Per remembers the fish being a lot larger several years ago, he offered the following explanation, which makes perfect sense when you think about it.

In earlier years the fishing in the lake was done by setting nets, resulting in lower resident trout populations due to a higher catch rate. Now the government has prohibited fishing with nets in these lakes year-round, supposedly to protect the Salmon during their spawning runs and the locals no longer bother to fish the lakes for the trout as they did when they could use nets. With a limited amount of food sources available (almost no aquatic insect life) and the severe climate conditions in these arctic waters, the resulting increased number of resident browns can not achieve much size. In fact, the fish I did catch were mature fish, they were just small.

Although the fishing didn't turn out as I had hoped, the visit had many other benefits. The scenic beauty was outstanding. The hills were covered with an arctic tundra that was nearly a foot thick with moss, lichen and small shrubs. There were few trails and I felt guilty walking directly on it. I anxiously await my photos of the beautiful arctic sun-lit landscapes. Although there were signs of reindeer we did not spot any at that location. Having light for nearly 22 hours per day left us with lots of time to enjoy the surrounding beauty. Hiking was indeed a treat and I hope to return there again soon, with or without a fishing rod.



Tofino, BC, August 5-9

by Bob Burdick

Having wanted to fly fish for ocean coho for several years, and not quite made the right connection I jumped at the chance to accompany three friends to Tofino to fish out of Weigh West resort, recently written up in Northwest Fly Fishing. The resort had offered an package of three days of fishing, three nights of lodging, and three days of all you could eat meals for the attractive price of \$665 Canadian. Loaded up with all the info I could glean from club members and Kaufmann's fly shop, and carrying a pocketful of Clowser flies in #2 and #6 sizes I flew in to this picturesque town in Pacific Rim National Park loaded for bear, fully expecting to slay fish left and right. Having never been to this part of Vancouver Island I can say that this is one of the worlds most magical areas. Inhaling the beauty of the the birds, the sea life, the crashing surf and tidal action, and the interaction of fog, sun, and breezes set in a debris-free park was absolutely intoxicating. The lodge was efficiently run, the managers were extremely friendly and helpful, the lodging was high quality, the food first rate, and you could fish from dawn till dusk to your hearts content unlike other places I've been. Fishing was accomplished from a Boston Whaler rigged for two people, run by yourself with minimal oversight by the fish foreman who husbanded three to six boats at any given time..

And the fishing was outstanding at times. On my best day I hooked 35 fish to 8 pounds, landing 10, but the fishing varied markedly from day to day for the five days I fished averaging about about 10 strikes a day landing three or four. The best method of hooking fish, which was encouraged, was trolling a bucktail fly 10 feet behind the boat which was disappointing as I found this to be boring after a short time. When I was able to cast a weighted shooting head just outside the kelp beds and strip slowly I found fish and enjoyed myself much more but did not do nearly as well as those who stuck to trolling.

The fish themselves were a delight and as hot, hot, hot, as ocean coho can be. I stopped using my 6-weight rod and medalist reel after having my hand torn up by the spinning reel knob on my second fish and feeling generally out-manned resorting to my 9-weight which I felt to be a better match. I was told that the fish in general are present in July, August and September, average five to eight pounds, and do not generally get larger with big hooknose like we're used to seeing in Neah Bay waters. I look forward to returning next summer to see if I can't do better.

Fishing Reports

Rogue River Fishing

by John Townsell

Just returned from fishing the Rogue River.

Fished at Casey State Day-Use Park (no fee) upstream of Shady Cove, OR. While I was "gearing up" about 8:00 AM, I watched a local land a 2-pound and a 4-5-pound rainbow (steelhead? Remember, this is the land of the famous "half-pounders" which are 16-19 in. long). He also lost several other nice fish! Literally almost a fish a cast for a while!! He was using a small Prince nymph on the point and a weighted Ugly Bug on the dropper (the Prince nymph was catching them). No additional weight allowed on leader or line. Was using an indicator (I don't like those things!) 9' up on a 9' leader with floating line. Said that he had caught fish up to 10 pounds like that in this run (beautiful run!). He was fishing 57 1/2 feet downstream of the concrete launching ramp in the park (I'm kidding about the 1/2 foot but not the 57 feet. How is that for exact info!!!!) Upstream cast and let it dead drift. Most takes at end of drift. I didn't do as well but did get some nice fish (and several hard pulls and short runs before LDR-Buck Fever!!) and a lot of small fish.

Fished the "Holy Water" (tailwater fishing) below the Coles dam (just upstream from Casey Park). It is about 1/2 mile long. Nice water! Average trout is 16 inches but they supposedly are up to six pounds. My preference is to drive across the weir to the East/South side and park in a day-use park (Rivers Edge Park-no fee; nice; restrooms and picnic area) and hike upriver about 1/4 mile to the upper boundary just below the dam. This is the "inside-of-the-bend" side. You can also park along the road and fish the opposite bank. Didn't do very well; fished from 9:30AM to 12:30PM. Didn't seem to be any hatches coming off except a few caddis. For the "Holy Water" (per Scott Richmond in his book "Fishing In Oregon's Best Fly Water"): "Caddis-May through July and again in Sept. and Oct. Size 16 and 18. Leech patterns work well in July and August. Use sinking line. Fish close to shore. Go light (12' leader to 5x or 6x) and don't forget the lower end of the water if the upper end is crowded" (there was no one else there when I fished there: big crowd is during the awesome Salmonfly hatch late May through mid-June). Fished the stretch above the upper end of the Rogue Elk Johnson County Park which is downstream of Casey Park (access and parking \$3.00 fee). Drive to upper end to park and then walk upstream for deeper water; shallow-water

riffle extends most of the way downstream in front of the park and didn't seem to be good fishing water. Caught several small fish on a small black nymph dead drifted WITHOUT an indicator (I don't like those things but they can be deadly!). There were a few kings in the river splashing now and then.

I also fished in the Shady Trails RV Park in Shady Cove, OR where we were staying and caught several nice fish just roll casting from the launch ramp and a little floating dock they have. The park owner is a fishing guide but I didn't talk to him. Was told that the salmon and steelhead fishing will start improving in the next two weeks (whatever that means). Seems like a floating and a sinking line (for leeches) and long, light leaders and tippets are the ticket. The Rogue river in this area is a very pleasant river to fish; reminds one of the N.F. Stilly for size and configuration. There are lots of floaters in rubber rafts and a few drift boats but most everyone is as considerate as possible.

YOUR (SHORT) REPORT HERE

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 and Roman Millett. *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

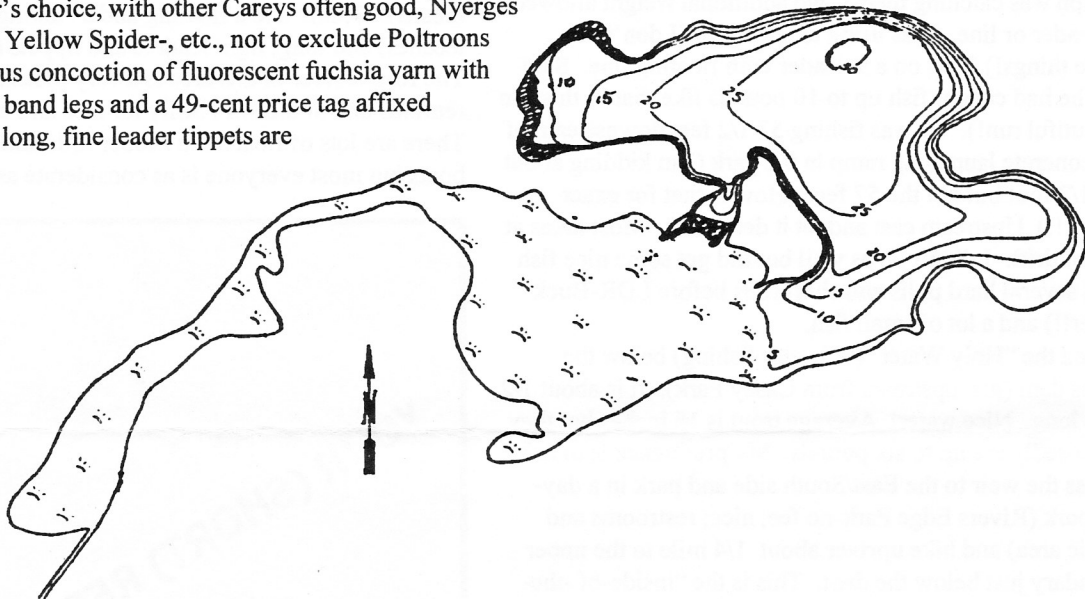
In Retrospect

from WFFC Creel Notes vol. XXVIII #9, September, 1980

Alan Pratt on Fishing Dry Falls Lake:

Fall is nicest time. Fish seem peppier, more broadly spread over lake and hit with more abandon. Mebbe better size, too, as I've gotten more big fish late. Best area for my money is the bay or flat short of the main launch site and outhouse. Shallow and weedy, it seems to hold more and better fish, providing they are working. Sometimes the rocky slot between main deep part of lake and the southern shallows is good, but here it takes a sinking line, where the remainder of the flats can be worked best with floater. Long neck and little bay at extreme south end can be hot on occasion, though I've never found it consistent.

Floating line, or a sink tip, work best though a slow sinker will also do the trick. You're fishing in anything from four feet of water to just slightly damp. I've had best success on a sparse black Carey on a 12 3x long, but the pattern range is dealer's choice, with other Careys often good, Nyerges Nymph, small Yellow Spider-, etc., not to exclude Poltroons Folly, a glorious concoction of fluorescent fuchsia yarn with wiggly rubber band legs and a 49-cent price tag affixed at stern. Nice long, fine leader tippets are standard.



What Happened at Chopaka Lake, Labor Day Weekend

Well Sir, the weather was fair most of the time, a few short rain showers and the wind was either from the north, or from the south but always tolerable. Flat calm usually in the evenings. Ron Mazurek overshot Oroville on his way north to the camping sites and realized that he had gone too far as he passed Canadian Customs. Dave Wands and Curt Carlson arrived one morning at 3:00 a.m., but circled the camp area several times before they recognized WFFC and Host Fred Dewitt (sans trousers). Tempura expert Jerry Sugemele one-handedly prepared trout on Saturday night - trout donated by various WFFC members. Red meat, superb eating on charcoal (or tempura). The olympic fire award should go to Dewitt - his eternal campfire never went out. Fred organized the falling of a 24" diameter ponderosa pine across the back road, enough timber to last several weeks.

Chopaka fishing was good, probably more large trout than in recent years. Many rainbows were broken off, many boated and/or released in the 18" to 20" category. There was also a group of 11" to 12" rainbow. The large fish weighed 2 1/4 to 3 pounds and were very strong; mostly females with eggs. On those that we kept the stomach contents were: very small shrimp, small snails (1/8" diameter), a few damsel fly nymphs, and an occasional grasshopper. While we all fished for trout, Dave Wands (with the help of Curt Carlson) boated and then released a young coot! I believe he used a May-fly nymph pattern. Pattern for wet lines (sinking tip or sinking): green dyed seal fur nymph, black chenille Carey (silver rib), self Carey, Six-pack; dry lines: Pink lady, silver may, Aigner's may fly, may fly nymphs. Summary: a great fishing outing attended by Wands, Carlson, Mazurek (3), Dewitt (2), Stearns (3), Challender (2), Rundall (2), Peiterson (2), Foss (2), Hanson (3), Bostjancic (4), Read (5), Lucas (2), Sheide, Hafer, Sugamele (2), Gross, Thomas (3). It may be added that both Dick Stearns and Jack Challender have a new way of stopping the hooked trout - by stepping on the line, reel fire drill! Fred Dewitt, while trolling south, had a wet line rod strike, but in his inimitable fashion, he picked up his dry line rod to set the fly on the keeper!

SPECIAL NOTE TO GULLIFORD: No-traces of St. Helens ash at Chopaka

SILVER LAKE continued from page 3.

Seven trout were caught in each of two nets set in the lake. A typical mountain lake with that density of fish would be open to fishing. "I don't think you get better fishing than that anywhere," Lucas said. However, Spirit Lake remains closed to fishing — and except for one spot, the 3,098-acre lake in the heart of the blast zone is closed to public access. The Harmony Falls trail descends from Road 99, east of the lake, to the shore. The Truman Trail veers near the lake, but hikers aren't allowed to leave the trail and reach the shore, nor may they camp overnight in the area. Scientists want to preserve the heart of the blast zone for research.

Forest Service spokeswoman Linda Turner said the agency would like to see more studies on fish in the lake and questions the safety of being on a lake with a shifting mass of floating logs. In addition, the eruption danger hasn't stabilized. "It's still a very sensitive area geologically. Twenty years is like it happened a few seconds ago," Turner said. The Forest Service doesn't plan to address recreation access at Mount St. Helens until it does its next plan for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, which is scheduled for 2005. It could be years before anglers get a chance to feel one of those big trout take a lure and peel fishing line off a reel.

Destruction of Salmon Eggs Angers Tribal Commission

by Linda Ashton, *The Associated Press, Yakima*,
submitted by Doug Schaad

The Columbia Inter-tribal Fish Commission is outraged by plans to destroy the eggs of more than a million hatchery-raised salmon in north-central Washington and is seeking a congressional investigation of federal fish policy. "It's a horrible thing. It's a waste of already scarce salmon resources and, as such, it's a wasted opportunity for rebuilding runs in that area," said Charles Hudson, a spokesman for the Portland-based commission.

The commission, which is composed of the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla and the Warm Springs tribes, has been joined by the Colville Confederated Tribes in objecting to the planned destruction of 1.2 million to 1.5 million salmon eggs at the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery, run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The eggs represent more than half of those collected from the 1,200 spring chinook that returned to the Methow River Basin this year.

The National Marine Fisheries Service is seeking to phase out that stock in the basin over the next three years so those fish don't mix with a stock still containing native salmon genes. On Monday, Greg Pratschner, the hatchery-

See DESTRUCTION on page 8.

Atlantic Salmon

from *Fishlink Sublegals*, submitted by Doug Schaad
Alaskans Angry Over Escape of Canadian Farmed Atlantic Salmon

On 22 August, the Anchorage Daily News ran an Associated Press article reporting the recent escape of thousands of Atlantic salmon from net pens in British Columbia has Alaska worried about the mixing of the non-native Atlantic farmed fish in the wild with native Pacific salmon. Alaska outlawed salmon farming in 1990, and the state opposes Canada's farms. Alaska biologists and fishermen worry that farmed salmon will breed with wild salmon and hamper local stocks' ability to survive. They also fear farmed salmon will bring diseases to wild fish or beat out wild stocks for space and food. Alaska plans to raise the issue of escapes at a meeting scheduled in a couple of weeks in Washington, D.C., said Dave Gaudet of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, according to the report in the Daily News.

An estimated 50,000 mature Atlantic salmon, weighing 10 pounds or more, recently escaped from a fish farm near the north end of Vancouver Island, about 350 miles south of Alaska waters. The fish escaped from a large circular net pen that holds up to 75,000 fish at Sargaunt Pass, east of Port McNeill. The fish were first reported by gillnetters who were catching them in their nets. About 286,000 farmed fish are known to have escaped from British Columbia farms between 1991 and 1999.

US FDA Approves Pink Color Additive for Farmed Salmonids

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has just approved the use of Cyanotech's "NatuRose(R)" color additive, made from natural astaxanthin as a color additive in the feed of farmed salmon and trout. NatuRose(R) natural astaxanthin is an extract from *Haematococcus* algae. Because of non-natural rearing conditions and artificial feeding, farmed salmon flesh bears little resemblance to that of wild fish and must be artificially colored to resemble it sufficiently so consumers cannot distinguish the two. Approval of this coloring agent allows salmon farmers in the US and other countries to offer American consumers so-called "All Natural" farm-raised salmon, claims Cyanotech Corporation in a press release. The company estimates the world market for astaxanthin to currently exceed \$150 million per year.

Loose Ends

Editor's Riffle

by Bill Boardman, Creel Notes Editor

The Prez is away, so... the Editor seizes this opportunity to express his editorial thoughts.

The Minutes of the September Board meeting report the characteristics proposed by the Membership Committee for new members, including:

Fly fisherman
Contributors
Possess vision
Value fellowship, community, empathy
Participate beyond general membership meetings (outings and activities)
Possessing good age distribution
Possessing good ethnic distribution

These qualifications, although certainly not new to the WFFC, seem worthy of our further consideration, but exactly what are "good" age and ethnic distributions and how should they be achieved? During all my years as a WFFC member we have always encouraged membership by men of all ages and all backgrounds, ethnic and otherwise. (At one point I think one-third of our membership were dentists!) I hope we will continue this openness without embarking on a program of "affirmative action."

Other Membership Committee proposals to attract, retain and energize members include advertising the WFFC in fly shops, more one-day outings (near home?), expanded mentoring (not restricted to new members, I hope. Can't a smart young whippersnapper teach us rusty old coots something useful?) and "topic tables" at the membership meetings (see page 1). I applaud these innovations; if put into practice I believe they will have a positive impact on me, personally, as well as on most of you.

The WFFC has been formally accepted by King County as the official steward of the Waterways 2000 Conservation Site on Griffin Creek. Grant Hendrickson has been nominated as the WFFC local contact for this site. Our next conservation outing will continue the riparian restoration (tree and shrub planting) there on October 7. While this date conflicts with the Club's Dry Falls outing, I (and the Prez) encourage all members to pitch in and help with this endeavor.

Greg Crumbaker reports that the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department staff is very receptive to the idea of integrating WFFC fly tying sessions into their Parks and Recreation schedule. This subject will be pursued. Sounds like a great way to get positive exposure for the Club!

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! uh...September 19!

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>
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

For Sale: Carver Boat

My 1955 15-foot Carver wooden boat is for sale. It's in excellent condition, looks nice and includes a 1990 25hp Mercury electric-start outboard with only about 10 hours running time. It's easy to tow on the included Calkins boat trailer.

Olympic View Marine in Everett tuned up the motor and installed a new battery in February 2000. At that time they informally appraised it at \$3500.00 for the outfit. I'm asking \$3000.00. Act fast - my wife wants to keep it!

Bill Boardman 425-252-9833.

DESTRUCTION continued from page 7.

complex manager, said the Winthrop hatchery would begin destruction of the eggs this week as required by the National Marine Fisheries Service and that the agency had rejected all the alternatives he suggested. NMFS has never ordered the Fish and Wildlife Service to destroy eggs, but it has issued some constraints that likely drove that decision, said Bill Robinson, a fisheries service regional hatchery director in Seattle.

The fish are not allowed to spawn naturally in the Methow Basin, and they can't be placed in waterways where a large number of hatchery salmon would be detrimental to federally protected wild runs, Robinson said. But a decision has not been made, he said. Some of the Winthrop fish will be spawned and their eggs hatched and moved to ponds for rearing and later release. Any fish released must be marked, so hatchery fish can be distinguished from wild fish. Robinson acknowledged that hatcheries might not have sufficient resources to mark all the fish as required.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 SEPTEMBER Go Fishing!	11	12	13 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	14	15	16 NEW MEMBER OUTING FOR SEARUNS & COHO
17 Go Fishing!	18	19 WFCC DINNER MEETING 5:30 PM COLLEGE CLUB	20 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	21	22	23 Go Fishing!
24 Go Fishing!	25	26	27 FLY TYER'S ROUNDTABLE 7:00 PM MERCER IS. COVN'T CHURCH	28 CONSERVATION COM. MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE RAM PUB	29	30 Go Fishing!
1 OCTOBER Go Fishing!	2 WFCC BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM COLLEGE CLUB	3	4 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	5	6 CREEL NOTES FROZEN	7 DRY FALLS LAKE OUTING GRIFFIN CREEK OUTING
8 Go Fishing!	9	10	11 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	12	13	14 Go Fishing!
15 Go Fishing!	16	17 WFCC DINNER MEETING 5:30 PM COLLEGE CLUB	18 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	19	20	21 Go Fishing!