

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

March 20, 2001

LI No. 3

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

March Program - Chasing Hatches in the West

by Jim McRoberts, Program Chairman

Jim Schollmeyer is a professional photographer and ex-fishing guide living in Salem, OR. He is the author of Hatch Guide for the Lower Deschutes River, Hatch Guide for Lakes, Hatch Guide for Western Streams and co-author of a few more books. His photographs have appeared in many fly fishing books and magazines.

Jim's slide presentation gives a short overview of western hatches that are important to trout and fly anglers. He shows the insects along with a selection of the waters where they occur. This program is the result of years of chasing hatches to photograph the insects and to fish for the trout that feed on them.

Come enjoy this program and perhaps learn something new about this all-important skill.

Notice - Dinner Price

by Bill Boardman, Creel Notes Editor

This is just a heads up. The price for our monthly dinner is under discussion. Look for an announcement in the April or May *Creel Notes*.

Griffin Creek Project

by Grant Hendrickson, Project Coordinator

Saturday, April 7, at Griffin Creek, is the test for how serious you are about enhancing salmon habitat! It's the Club's workday at our Habitat Partners site with the emphasis on "dirty work." The primary task for the day is removal of large clumps of evergreen blackberries. The county will provide tools, but you might wish to bring some good garden gloves and your own set of pruning tools. The task will be a whole lot easier if we get a good turnout! Work will start at 9:00 AM.

Bob Spencer, our Club's contact person with King County, will be at the March meeting to give us a briefing on the project and more details on what to expect.

DIRECTIONS TO GRIFFIN CREEK

From 520 eastbound, take the Redmond/Fall City/SR202 exit.

Turn right and follow 202, the Redmond/Fall City Road, 7.6 miles to Tolt Hill Road.

Turn left onto Tolt Hill Road and follow over the hill and across the Snoqualmie River to Carnation/Fall City Road (SR203).

Turn right 1.3 miles to NE 11th. Turn left on NE 11th. Follow straight ahead on the dirt road 0.2 miles to a designated parking area on the left.

The actual site is 0.3 miles down that road. The site is entered by a path to the left of the gate on the right side of the road.

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Oops, Correction:

Some of you sharp-eyed folks may have noticed that the February 2001 issue of *Creel Notes* was printed with volume number **LI No. 1** in the banner. (Although no one has bothered to bring it to my attention.) Please correct that to **LI No. 2**. Thanks, the Editor.

Fly Tying Roundtable

by Pete Baird

Well, our attendance at the Fly Tying Roundtable was down on the night of Feb 28 in spite of the usual good meal being served and all; must have had something to do with an earthquake that day. The stalwarts that did make it included Chuck Ballard, Greg Crumbaker, Dick Scales, and yours truly. The plan for the night called for favorite salt water patterns. Chuck produced a couple of beauties - a yellow wooly bugger and a candle fish pattern. Dick Scales turned out one of his custom dandies now known as a "Dick's Deceiver" and I managed a few very simple overgrown euphausiid patterns that are a spin off from one of Don Simonson's favorites. Greg, I'm afraid, is still suffering from the 2 stressful years of serving as WFFC president, and was a little confused about the difference between fresh & saltwater flies, but in his defense he did produce a very nice looking stone fly nymph. All will be contributed to our Swap Box. Pete Baird (surrogate recorder for Dick Brening in Belize, poor guy)

Fly Tying Roundtable

by Dick Brening

Tim Coleman has agreed to come to our March Fly Tying Round Table and tie up some of his great Damsel Fly patterns. I'm sure if you have had a chance to see what Tim can do with these patterns you will want to attend. If you haven't had a chance to see them, now is your opportunity!

March Meeting: Wednesday, March 28th, 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. Visitors are welcome.
If you have any questions on directions contact Pete Baird or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

Proposed for Membership

Earl Harper and Mark Pratt have been interviewed by the Membership Committee and will be voted on at the March meeting.

Earl Harper

My name is Earl Harper and my fishing career is neither long nor illustrious. It all began here in the northwest when my parents were stationed at McChord Air Force Base and we lived near Lake Spanaway. I remember walking to a nearby dock and spending many hours fishing for perch with a bobber and worm. The worms were, of course, raised on my own little worm farm.

Just before the second grade, my parents were stationed to an Air Force Base in Spain where I spent the next seven years fishing for carp and large mouth bass. Luckily, the Rod & Gun Club had stocked a nearby lake with bass. Next we moved to and spent a year in Michigan where the prime prey were salmon, suckers and the occasional pike. I hate to admit it but many of these fish were not taken in the most sporting of methods. As a freshman in high school, 30lb test and a weighted treble hook seemed the most productive way of landing a big salmon. Well, the fish gods must have been watching and not liked what they saw because we were then sent to the desert where I spent the next two and a half years living in hell... Las Vegas.

After graduating from high school on an American base in Germany, I went off to college to what should have been my fishing paradise, the University of Montana. Unfortunately, or fortunately depending upon how you look at it, once I arrived, I realized that parties and girls consumed much more time than I had anticipated. So, although I did fish some, I certainly did not fish as much as I could have. Luckily though, on one of those occasional trips I was introduced to fly fishing. To me growing up as a lead-chucking gear-hound, this was a whole new concept. I must admit at first I wasn't so sure about this, how could I possibly trade in my 15lb tackle box for this little box of flies and this pencil thin rod. Lucky for me, the friend who fly-fished always seemed to catch more fish than I did on my Mepps spinners and Daredevil spoons, so more out of jealousy than anything, I began to fly fish.

After moving to Seattle in the late 1980's, I am sorry to say, the lead in me arose once again and I began mooching. I spent a couple of years mooching for salmon in Puget Sound before realizing how boring it could be. I never said I was the brightest bulb on the Christmas tree. Finally about ten years ago I bought my first fly rod. The first two or three years I barely caught enough fish to keep me interested. Slowly, after time and reading, I began to catch more and more fish. It wasn't until about three years ago when I met Leland Miyawaki and Scott Rosenkranz that I began to really understand the finer points of fly fishing. It was also when my wife began to see less and less of me. I wish to thank both Leland and Scott for allowing me to tag along on their ventures, especially to Leland for introducing me to the WFFC of which I hope to become a longtime member. Thank you very much, Earl Harper.

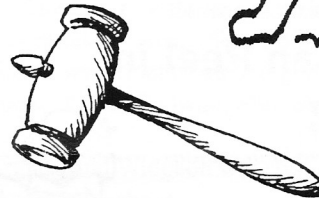
Mark Pratt

Technical difficulties prevent publishing the full text of Mark's statement in this issue. Perhaps more in April. The following can, however, be presented:

"Members attending the WFFC meeting on September 19 became aware that the son of A.C.P. (Lucky Al), otherwise known as Al Pratt, declared his wish to join the Club. ...I think it's about time I got to know some new fisher folk and rekindle some old friendships, hopefully learning some new skills and breaking old bad habits as I go. Hope to see ya on the water. M.A.P."

Beginning Fly Casting Class

- Starts Thursday April 12th
- 8 sessions every Thursday Evening
- 7PM till Dusk
- Greenlake Casting Pier
- Cost is \$25.00
- Registration is required. To register or inquire call 206-542-4623



Become a Volunteer Beach Naturalist This Summer!

submitted by Doug Schaad, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

Care about beaches? Good with people? Sign up to be a volunteer beach naturalist at a Seattle-area beach this summer. Naturalists will receive training from marine and interpretive experts on three Thursday evenings (March 29, April 12 and April 26) and three Saturdays (March 31, April 14 and April 28) and then spend three summer weekend days educating visitors about beach ecology and beach etiquette at Constellation Park (Alki), Lincoln Park, Golden Gardens, Carkeek Park, Seahurst Park, Des Moines Beach Park and Richmond Beach. People who live near these beaches are especially encouraged to participate, but anyone with the time, interest and commitment is welcome.

An orientation session for the program will be held Thursday evening, March 22 at the Seattle Aquarium. To sign up or with any questions about the program, please call Polly Freeman at (206) 296-8359, or email polly.freeman@metrokc.gov.

The partners sponsoring this third year of the Beach Naturalist Program include Alki Community Council, the Seattle Aquarium, King County Department of Natural Resources, Central Puget Sound Watershed Forum, King Conservation District, People for Puget Sound, Puget Sound Action Team, Seattle Parks, University of Washington Sea Grant, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Department of Health.

WFFC President's Riffle

by Kris Kristoferson, WFFC President

Each day now, the sun sets just a little bit later. That, together with the warm days of recent weeks, brings up thoughts of fishing. While many of us have fished through the winter, we all look forward to spring and summer for the excellent fishing these seasons bring.

Dave Schorsch has lined up a terrific schedule of WFFC outings, which will have us out on the water making the most of our fisheries during this great time of year.

Also coming up is our spring work party at Griffin Creek. This April 7th event brings members together to continue our riparian restoration efforts under the able leadership of Grant Hendrickson as well as the Club's Conservation Committee.

Turning to our monthly general membership meetings, Second Vice President Jim McRoberts has lined up a slate of programs guaranteed to interest anglers across the board. The Club's flytiers and photographers will want to catch this month's program in particular, featuring Jim Schollmeyer, who has recently co-authored [The Flytier's Benchside Reference](#).

Thanks to Dave, Grant and Jim for getting our activities rolling as we move into prime fishing season!

Kris Kristoferson President, 2001

Fishing Reports

Fishing Report - Monday, February 26, 2001

by Gil Nyerges

On my way home from the Yakima Sport Show, I drove the Canyon Road and stopped at four likely looking stretches of water near the 9, 10, and 19 mile markers. The river was low and clear - a little skim ice along the edges - sun bright and warming up. A small hatch of pinhead sized midges was in evidence with very few rises. Used a floating line and a Nyerges Nymph for two strikes and a release of one 17-inch rainbow. Next stop used a TDC for two more strikes and release of a 20-inch (yes, that's 20 inches) rainbow. Next stop with a Nyerges Nymph resulted in two more strikes and one 18-inch whitefish. My final stop produced four more strikes with two more releases - one 17 -inch 'bow and another 20 incher, all on the Nymph. Quit at 1:00 PM sharp - had a bite to eat and had a very pleasant trip home. This was my very best trip ever on the Yakima - and there was no one else on the river until I got almost to Ellensburg. I'd rather be lucky than good anytime - sometimes it happens!!

Fly-fishers Can Reel in Fine Reading

by Fenton Roskelley - *The Spokesman-Review*

If you could absorb even a fraction of the information contained in books on fly-fishing published the last few weeks, you would be on your way to becoming a master fly-fisher. Seldom have so many fly-fishing books been published in such a short time. Inland Northwest fly-fishers who spend most of their time on still waters can learn a lot from Fly Patterns for Stillwaters, \$29.95, by Philip Rowley and published by Frank Amato Publications. The 106-page softcover book is a gold mine of useful information on insects that fish eat and patterns created to simulate them. Many of the patterns are popular in Washington, Idaho and British Columbia. Hundreds of excellent color photos by Jim Schollmeyer are included.

In The Orvis Guide to Prospecting for Trout, \$19.95, by Tom Rosenbauer, published by The Lyons Press, the author goes into elaborate detail to explain techniques for finding where trout live, why they live in certain spots and how and where they feed. By the time a fisher, whether novice or expert, finishes reading the 271 pages, he or she will be a much better fly-fisher. Rosenbauer's long chapter on rich and poor trout streams will be a revelation to most fishers; it's worth the price of the book.

As experienced fly-fishers know, there's been a

resurgence of interest in bamboo fly rods the last few years. Everywhere, it seems, fly-fishers and entrepreneurs are making bamboo fly rods. In the Inland Northwest, for example, numerous people painstakingly create rods out of split bamboo. A few books on building the rods have been available. Now, Handcrafting Bamboo Fly Rods, \$50, by master craftsman Wayne Cattanch, has been published by The Lyons Press. Until now, the 210-page book was available only as a privately printed edition. Cattanch provides step-by-step instructions on converting hard, raw bamboo into beautifully finished rods.

If you've fly-fished for several years, you likely tie your own flies. Most veteran fly-fishers do. Fly tying is an absorbing hobby, and there's satisfaction in catching a fish with a fly you've tied. Like most of us, John Gierach, author of Good Flies: Favorite Trout Patterns and How They Got That Way, started out as a tinkerer. He originated patterns that didn't work and gradually became an adequate tier who admires the work of professional tiers. He eventually settled on relatively few patterns. In his latest book, his 12th, he tells how he selected his favorite patterns, how to tie them quickly and efficiently. The 179-page book, \$22.95, published by The Lyons Press, is illustrated with numerous line drawings.

Stories written by such famous authors as A.J. McClane, Joe Brooks, Ted Trueblood, Lee Wulff and Zane Grey are among the many fascinating and informative tales in Sports Afield Treasury of Fly Fishing, \$27.95, edited by Tom Paugh and published by The Lyons Press. You'll add a lot to your fly-fishing knowledge by reading the stories told by the masters of storytelling. Some were written a century ago; most were written the last 50 years. All are as fresh today as the day they were published.

Lefty Kreh is one of the best known fly-fishers in North America. He has written several books and hundreds of magazine articles over his long career. Now, The Lyons Press has published two of his latest books, 101 Fly-Fishing Tips and Solving Fly-Casting Problems. The little paperback books are \$14.95 each. My favorite is the book on fly-fishing tips. Each tip is illustrated with a black and white photo. A fly-fisher who has fished with the best of the world's fishers, Kreh has learned ways of making his fly-fishing more enjoyable and easier.

The most entertaining book published in recent weeks is Green River Virgins and Other Passionate Anglers, \$22.95, by Mallory Burton and published by The Lyons Press. A fly-fishing guide and linguist, Burton, who lives in Prince Albert, British Columbia, is a wonderful writer who adroitly describes the idiosyncrasies of fly-fishers, many of them men, in her absorbing, witty stories.

You can contact Fenton Roskelley by voice mail at 459-5577, extension = 3814.



In Retrospect

In Retrospect

from *WFFC Creel Notes* vol. XXIV No. 3, March 1976

FLY TYING

Dave Wands was over the other evening and he has some techniques with the deer hair wing fly that are helpful. The way he tells it the secret to the hair wing is using gentle pressure when you "X" the wings, and also gentle pressure when you throw loops around the butts. He says this gentle pressure isn't necessary unless you really do want your wings to look like a Swedish or Norwegian mustache . . . whatever that might mean.

Dave is quite enthusiastic about using rubber cement very lightly on the thread prior to affixing dubbing material. He says to use a very thin coat or the flies have a tendency to bounce when cast hard on the water, but then who knows?

The George Grant flies with the pins and the nylon overbody look very realistic. Apparently, the secret to tying overbodies is just not trying to use too much pressure. The flat Cobra monofilament does not have to be manhandled. Some of the guys who have been having trouble with the cut pins slicing the thread at the critical moment can also get around this dilemma by dipping the cut end into rubber cement which coats the sharp cut edge and saves the vocabulary and time.

Before this ends . . . if you wish to see a real spectacle just talk Dave into pulling threads out of a pantyhose after he has been hefting large glasses of Rhinegarten for an hour or so. Amazing.

Boyd Aigner

MORGAN LAKE OUTING

If this *Creel Notes* reaches you in time, you are reminded that this March 13 and 14 there will be a Club outing at Morgan and Halfmoon Lakes in the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is north of Othello; drive north on McMannaman Road to the first dirt road on your right; there will be a sign a few hundred feet in on this road indicating that this is the Refuge. Drive on this road for approximately two miles until you see a large Aigner camp fire. This will be the Teal Lake campground. Bring water, fire wood and a camp chair to sit around the fire. We have scheduled perfect weather and the fishing will be great. Back in 1968, Steve Raymond had the following fishing report of fishing on these lakes.

"Caught a good number of trout averaging one and a half pounds, also one three pounder, one three and a half and one four pounder. Also, lost one much larger that was into the backing almost before I could raise the rod tip. Had one good look at it before it snapped the leader and it was . . . Aw, hell, you wouldn't believe it anyway. Had good success on fluorescent green carey and shrimp patterns. The lake is full of good fish and the fish grow rapidly."

Two Skagit River Dams Are Running Dry

By *MIKE BARBER SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER* Friday, February 23, 2001

At the same time that the Pacific Northwest's severe water and power drought continues to worsen, Puget Sound Energy's two Skagit River dams are about to run dry. The utility's Baker Lake and Shannon Lake dams are expected to run dry about Sunday. The silencing of the turbines that churn an average combined 100 megawatts of electricity power will be deprived from power-hungry people. But that will be a relatively small inconvenience compared to the potential catastrophe awaiting thousands of primarily chinook salmon fry that rely upon the river water flow to begin their life cycle. "If we got an inch of rain out there it would buy us a few more days, but those beautiful blue skies continue," PSE spokesman Roger Thompson said. While water will remain behind the dams, it will fall below the level of the penstock, or pipe opening near the bottom of the reservoir that feeds water by gravity to the turbines, Thompson said. Puget Sound Energy has been working with state, federal and tribal agencies, and with Seattle City Light — which has larger dams farther up the Skagit River in the North Cascades — to try to find a remedy, Thompson said. PSE has been voluntarily releasing stored reservoir water for three months mainly to help maintain the targeted water flow of 7,600 cubic feet per second that authorities say the fish need to survive. Without rain, "the situation is going from bad to worse," said Ed Schild, PSE's director of energy production and storage. Unless it receives more water from Seattle City Light's reservoirs, the flows will fall to about 4,500 cubic feet per second, Thompson said. Normal flows for this time of year are 14,000 cubic feet per second, but the Skagit as a whole is flowing at half its normal level, Thompson said. PSE's dams, however, comprise only a small portion of the utility's average 2,600 megawatts of power. The rest comes from contracts with suppliers. Fortunately for PSE customers, Thompson said, the utility locked up long-term contracts with suppliers before the winter drought, at rates below the sky-high prices now being commanded on the energy market.

MARCH - APRIL 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11 MARCH Go Fishing!	12	13	14	15	16	17 Go Fishing!
18 Go Fishing!	19	20 WFFC DINNER MEETING 5:30 PM COLLEGE CLUB	21 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	22	23	24 Go Fishing!
25 Go Fishing!	26	27	28 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	29 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE RAM PUB	30	31 Go Fishing!
1 APRIL Go Fishing!	2 WFFC BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM COLLEGE CLUB	3	4 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	5	6 APRIL CREEL NOTES FROZEN	7 GRIFFIN CREEK WORK PARTY
8 Go Fishing!	9	10	11 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	12 FLY CASTING CLASSES 7:00PM GREEN LAKE	13	14 Go Fishing!
15 Go Fishing!	16	18 WFFC DINNER MEETING 5:30 PM COLLEGE CLUB	18 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	19	20	21 Go Fishing!