

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

November 20, 2001

LI No. 11

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

WFFC Heritage Night

by Jim McRoberts, WFFC Program Chairman

The WFFC November Program will have a Heritage theme. During the "Wet Fly" hour we will have on display many items that will bring back fond memories. If you have not been contacted but would like to share some of your collectibles for viewing, please contact Jim McRoberts, Program Chairman, at (425) 643-2743.

Our speakers are Gordy "Always" YOUNG, Bruce "Semper fi" CLINGAN and Gil "the nymph" NYERGES. They will tell tales to cheer the heart and show "really old" movies and slides of the "Good Old Days".

Griffin Creek ...We've Missed You!

by Grant Hendrickson, WFFC Griffin Creek Project Coordinator

Since we saw you last on August 25 we haven't been able to get you off our minds, so...We are planning a tree-planting morning for the Griffin Creek site on the 15th of December. We have approximately 300 trees that need to be planted, which translates into three hours of work for 15-20 people. Species to be planted (subject to their individual preferences, no doubt) are:

100 Alder
50 Sitka Spruce
50 Douglas Fir

40 Cottonwood
25 Big Leaf Maple
25 Cedar

We'll start at 10:00 A.M. Though the weather is not likely to be conducive to cooking, I'm prepared with frames, tarps and griddle to take care of lunch.

In This Issue

Club News	2-3
Fishing Reports	4-5
President's Riffle	4
In Retrospect	6
WFFC Calendar	7

Roster Updates

The following changes have been submitted by members. Please update your roster.

New Address: **James David Miller** 3319 Gapland Road
Rohrersville, MD 21779-1206 Telephone: 301-416-2250

I retired from the Federal Government on July 31st after nearly 35 years and have settled into a pretty quiet rural existence in the area where Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia meet, just seven miles from Harpers Ferry. I have been researching likely fishing spots but have not yet wet a line. Frederick and Hagerstown both sport fly fishing clubs, and since I remain a novice I hope to hook up with one of them soon in the fervent hope of meeting the kind of characters left behind in Washington, both for education and comradeship.

Regards to "the group",
Dave Miller

New address: **Mike Nolan** 21508 50th Ave W, D-5
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043 (425) 776-4117 (H), (425) 774-5735 (W),
email: mikesnolan@aol.com

Epiphany

(e pif' e ne) - noun - A moment of sudden intuitive understanding; flash of insight.

by Bill Boardman

Early one evening in October I joined several Club members at the Green Lake casting pier to learn whether I could qualify for a class in "advanced casting techniques." I really had my doubts. Upon arrival, the instructor assured me that I was welcome even if my basic skills were somewhat lacking. I was surprised to see several members whom I had assumed already knew it all. Good casters, apparently, never stop learning.

You should understand that my casting technique is not a stable thing. Sometimes it is sufficiently reliable to fool fish. Occasionally I impress myself by delivering the fly at precisely the desired spot, sometimes even under difficult conditions. What a feeling! Maybe, after all, I've learned something after all these years! More often, my performance is shameful; I can't control the line or the fly regardless of how hard I try. In short, my casting technique is inconsistent. The October class, offered by our FFF Master Certified Fly Casting Instructor Don Simonson, looked like a great opportunity for me to see how my casting compared to others', and hopefully, to improve my technique.

The first lesson started with instruction on controlled-loop casting, reach mends and in-the-air mends. I have tried reach casting before. Sometimes it produced the desired result, to minimize fly drag in moving water, but often it didn't, because of the varying stream velocities along the length of the line. As Don was explaining and demonstrating how the timing of the 'reach' motion determined the configuration of the line on the water, I had my epiphany. I could suddenly see how 'reaching' immediately following the power stroke left the line straight on the water from the fly to the rod tip, while delaying the 'reach' put a bend in the line between the fly and the rod. The longer the delay, the longer the length of line straight from the fly toward me, before it bent toward the rod tip. This was something new to me! I'd never noticed this cause-and-effect before. Here was a method of dealing with at least some of those varying current speeds.

Many other techniques were presented during the course of the clinic. Some I'm already proficient in, some I may never accomplish or will neglect to practice until it's too late, and I'll blow my opportunity!

In any case, this class was a really good exposure to some of the possibilities available beyond basic casting moves. Don Simonson does a magnificent job of teaching and has shown himself willing to spend as much time as necessary to help an individual personalize the techniques. If the opportunity comes again, don't miss it! Thanks Don!

Beginning Fly Tying Class

by Don Simonson, WFFC Education Chairman

This traditional class, which attempts (and has generally been successful) to teach basic tying skills to the uninitiated seekers in our community of arcane and occult knowledge, starts Thursday January 10, 2002. That's less than two months from right now!

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church (Same venue as Fly Tyer's Roundtable)

Cost: \$30.00 (A real bargain in today's world!)

Enrollment prior to the start date is required. For more information and to enroll, call Don Simonson at 206-932-4925.

If you have minimal skills and are willing to use them in this way, I'm reasonably sure that Don would consider your offer of assistance in instructing this class. I may be in trouble, however, because I haven't checked this out with Don yet. Ed.

Fun Run to the WDFW Steelhead Hearings in Vancouver, WA

by Doug Schaad, Conservation Co-chairman, with a little unsolicited help from the Editor

The Conservation Committee is in total agreement that chartering a bus for the December run to the WDFW hearings on Wild Steelhead Release at Vancouver makes great sense. The committee is ready to commit Conservation Funds to underwrite this activity.

The planning would go something like this: Arrange for a charter bus to pick up the first contingent of fly-fishers at the park-n-ride near Northgate. Approximately 60 minutes later the bus would stop at the park-n-ride at Federal Way to pick up the next contingent. If the need exists, a stop could be arranged in Olympia. Other clubs in the Puget Sound Basin will be invited to participate. Individuals would be expected to contribute 25% of the total cost (far less than individual commuting costs).

Please make the effort to attend this vital meeting on December 8. Jay Deeds is coordinating the bus arrangements. It should prove to be a great outing. I don't know the details (neither does Jay at this point) but look forward to lots of fun and comraderie. I assume that the bus will wait around in Vancouver long enough to bring us all back home! Call Jay at (425) 277-0421 or see him at the November meeting to arrange for your seat on the bus. Both ways. Ed.

Fly Tying Roundtable

by Dick Brening

At the October round table Preston Singletary tied the Reverse Spider pattern that he often uses. The fly is tied in reverse order of a typical fly pattern. He starts the fly by tying in the tip of an Amherst Pheasant hackle at the eye of the hook with the butt pointing forward. The hackle is wound on keeping the fibers pointing forward over the eye of the hook. After tying off the hackle, the thread is wrapped back to the hook bend where a few hackle fibers are tied in for a tail. The thread is then brought forward to the mid point of the body and a chenille is tied in and wrapped forward tight to the back of the hackle and then back to the tail, forming a tapered body. The fly is completed with a whip finish tie at the tail. Preston is very positive on the effectiveness of this fly. The forward-facing hackle adds greatly to the motion the fly makes when retrieved. He uses a variety of colors and also substitutes wood duck for the hackle. Thanks, Preston for sharing this fly pattern.

The Chums have been running now for several weeks and I'm sure many of you have been out after them. Our November meeting will be used to replenish our fly boxes with flies we used for those Chums. Les Johnson has agreed to stop by and show us some of his Chum patterns. I hope others of you will come and share your favorite patterns also.

November Meeting: Tuesday, November 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, as well as visitors, 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.

Pick Up Your WFFC Jacket Before It Gets Cold!

By WFFC Ghillie, Leland Miyawaki

Any member who has signed up for a new WFFC jacket may pay \$45 and receive their jacket at the Ghillie's table at the November meeting.

2001 Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition - Reminder

by Bill Neal, WFFC Awards Chairman

The Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition for this year features four flies:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Dave's hopper | #8 |
| (2) Kaufmann's stonefly nymph | #6 |
| (3) Stimulator (any color) | #10 |
| (4) Damsel fly adult | #12 |

For flies (1) and (2), participants must adhere to the basic structure of the designated pattern, but may substitute materials. For (3) and (4), participants may choose their own pattern.

Flies must be submitted by the December Holiday Party, and the winner will be announced as part of the January Award Ceremonies.

In addition to having his name engraved on the permanent trophy, the winner will receive a Winston BL-5 10', 8 weight, 5-piece fly rod with a Bauer M-4 reel donated by Kaufmann's Streamborn Flies.

Please contact me, Bill Neal, for further information, as well as a copy of the Competition Guidelines and a confidential identifier number to be used in the Competition.

(206) 667-8211 (w)
(206) 232-0603 (h)
wneal@staffordfrey.com

Come, gentlemen, step right up to the vise and tie for the glory and honor of your Club (and a brand new Winston flyrod). The number of contestants has, in past years, been somewhat less than overwhelming. In fact, the attitude has apparently been somewhere between "Fly? What's a fly?" and "Who, me? I can't compete with all those experts!" C'mon guys, your honor and reputation as flyfishermen are at stake! Call Bill, get your special, secret ID number, and get to work. Ed.



Fishing Reports

Eliguk Lake June 11-18

by Perry Barth

"How sweet it is". (Jackie Gleason) Actually, it has never been better fishing than it was this year. With 18 of us in camp, it had the feeling of a WFFC outing. Everyone caught lots of fish on whatever fly they bent on their line. The dry fly fishing was excellent also, and that isn't always true for June. We fished a lot, laughed a lot, and ate a lot. Because of the friendship the Schillers have with Gil Nyerges, our club members and friends get an outstanding week of fishing at half price. Wonderful deal.

One success story I'll share. When some of us fished Gypsy Lake for Northern Pike in May, as reported last month, my friend Bob Jamieson was with us for his very first fishing trip. I fixed him up with a spinning rod so he could start fishing right away. Half way through the week after he had caught lots of fish, I asked him how he liked fishing. "It's a hoot". His very words. So when Bob joined us for our Eliguk adventure, I again packed along the spinning rod for him.

As we were getting prepared to fish that first afternoon, he told me that after watching the rest of us fly fish, he was no longer interested in the spinning rod and that he wanted to try fly fishing that week. With some expert instruction from both Gil and Don Simonson, he was shortly doing a very acceptable job of casting and catching his share of fish. At the "camaraderie hour", I was seeing a smile on his face as he drank his Jack Daniels at the fireplace before dinner and discussing fly patterns with some of the other guys. I felt like I had just set the hook on a very large steelhead! What a fabulous week. Maybe you will join us next year?

President's Riffle

by Kris Kristoferson, WFFC President, 2001

November is here and, looking at the WFFC's calendar, it appears we'll be finishing off the year with a bang.

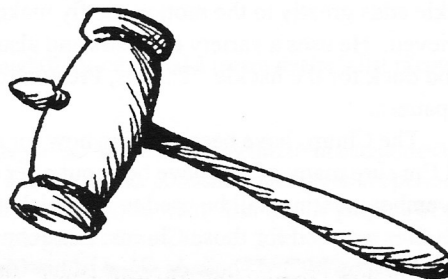
November 17th is the day for the WFFC's fishing clinic to benefit World Trade Center disaster relief. This event runs from 10AM to 4PM at Kristoferson Farm on Camano Island. Casting games, casting instruction including spey casting, fly tying demonstrations and instruction, a raffle, lunch and more, round out a great day for a good cause. Contact me for additional information.

Greg Crumbaker and others continue to research possibilities and collect information on the Club's Home Waters initiative. The shorter days naturally lead to scheming for future fishing opportunities and, while the prospect of WFFC Home Waters makes that all the more fun, home waters will also enhance our education and youth programs.

Looking ahead to the Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations meetings on December 7th and 8th, Jay Deeds is organizing a comfortable and fun bus trip for WFFC members on Saturday the 8th. Assuming we'll need to celebrate a powerful, positive impact on the proceedings, particularly concerning wild steelhead release, Jay is investigating "refreshment" opportunities for the return leg. We'll learn more about this trip at the November general membership meeting. Thanks, Jay, for thinking of ways to combine good work with good fun.

On December 15th, join the WFFC crew planting trees at Griffin Creek. Grant Hendrickson has coordinated with King County on this event to build further on the transformation of this important nursery stream.

WFFC involvement in events like these continues our Club's rich tradition in the areas of conservation and education and makes me proud to count myself as a member.



Columbia R. Juvenile Salmon Survival Rates Hit Near-Record Lows

from Fishlink Sublegals 10-12-01

Survival rates for juvenile out-migrating salmon and steelhead smolts from the Columbia River reached levels among the lowest ever recorded, according to an article in the 11 October Oregonian. This means potentially record low run returns in two to four years. Drought level flows were reduced this year to the second-lowest level since record keeping began in 1929, increasing water temperatures and reducing dissolved oxygen. Losses were also blamed on artificially low flow rates, even below those created by drought, created at critical times as the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) ordered curtailment of its spill program, sacrificing juvenile salmon to produce more power.

However, much of this summer's 'energy crisis' has since dissipated as grossly inflated power prices readjusted, and California became awash with power it cannot use and must sell at a loss. Low flows and on-again, off-again spills also stranded hundreds of thousands of smolts in the Hanford Reach, the only free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River and the location of the Columbia's only remaining healthy salmon runs.

Fishing Reports

Plenty of Fish No Guarantee of Good Fishing

by Fenton Roskelley - *The Spokesman-Review*

The fisherman from Denver had never caught a steelhead. His Coeur d'Alene friend had assured him that the Snake and Grande Ronde rivers were full of steelhead. Now is the time, he said, to come to the great Northwest and experience the heart-pounding adrenaline rush of hooking a dozen or more powerful steelhead.

After spending a couple of days casting a variety of fly patterns along the Grande Ronde just below Troy, OR, the man was disappointed. So his Idaho friend took him to the lower Ronde. A few hundred casts later he still hadn't caught a steelhead. Neither had his friend and other fly fishers. The disappointed Colorado fly fisher, a glum expression on his face, didn't want to talk. Maybe, his Idaho friend said, he would take him down the Snake.

But fishing along the Snake also was poor that day. Anglers who fished the Snake without success decided to fish the Ronde. And fly fishers who had fished the Ronde decided to fish the Snake.

The Colorado fly fisher's time had run out. He had to return home for business reasons. Because he hadn't felt the soul-satisfying surge of a powerful steelhead, he was miserable. To him, the trip was a bust. He was oblivious to the wonderful, wild and primitive scenery.

What the Colorado angler didn't realize is that steelhead, like all fish, respond to urges to spawn, changes in weather patterns and river-flow changes. In addition, they often migrate in bunches.

Fishers never should assume that just because the Snake and its tributaries are full of steelhead, the fishing will be fabulous everywhere. Steelhead are not always spread out along a river system. Consequently, fishing can be terrific in one section and disappointing in another.

As the Snake began filling up with steelhead, scores of anglers trolled, back-trolled and drifted plugs and cast jigs and bobbers from Ice Harbor Dam to the mouth of the Grande Ronde. Most were frustrated. The reason was that water temperatures were too high. The steelhead were willing to migrate up streams when temperatures were 65 to 70 degrees, but they wouldn't open their mouths and munch on a lure or fly. Even the region's experienced guides were frustrated.

Finally, the temperatures dropped several degrees the

second week of this month. Suddenly, hundreds of anglers started catching steelhead. Fishing was so good in some sections of the rivers that guides reported their clients caught one fish after another. One said that during two days of fishing, his four clients hooked 113 steelhead and chinook salmon.

To steelhead, water temperatures are all-important. They will migrate toward their home waters when temperatures are high. They'll become sluggish when the water is in the low 40s and they'll settle down in holes when it is in the 30s. They'll take lures and flies on a sunny day, but not nearly as quickly as when there is a cloud cover. Every veteran steelheader knows that a rainstorm will start steelhead moving up rivers.

For example, several years ago steelhead fishing had been slow for days along the lower Ronde and along the Snake just below the Ronde. Steelheaders were going through casting and retrieving motions. Then clouds began gathering. Rex Gerlach and I were along the Ronde across from the main road. Our California friends, Milt Kahl and Ed Ward, were casting across from us. Gerlach was carrying a camera, not a rod. Suddenly, the clouds began emptying their loads. Most anglers headed for their RVs and tents. Kahl, Ward and I continued casting. Kahl hooked a steelhead. Ward was next. Then I hooked one. It immediately became obvious to us that the rain had started a lot of steelhead moving.

For the next four hours, Kahl, Ward and I hooked and released steelhead. Anyone could have caught steelhead that day. Finally, my arm tired. We walked up to the first bend. I made one cast and hooked my 21st steelhead. After releasing it, I reeled in. Kahl and Ward each caught just as many as I did.

Fishers will never fully understand fish. When fishing is slow, we frequently change lures or flies, hoping that a change in color or size will improve our luck. Even the late, renowned outdoors writer Ted Trueblood had his foibles. When Gerlach and I arrived at the Ronde one fall, Trueblood and one of his friends were camped near the mouth. The Ronde was Trueblood's "Steelhead Shangri-La" and he never identified it to his readers. The steelhead, he pontificated, would only take a black fly. A little while later, Gerlach and I caught steelhead on silver and orange patterns.

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

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 Bill Boardman, 810 Crown Drive, Everett, WA 98203. The WFFC may be visited on the internet at <http://www.wffc.com>.

In Retrospect

In Retrospect

from *WFFC Creel Notes* vol. XXIV No. 11, November 1976

ABOUT THE COST OF FISHING BOOKS

The art of angling has a greater body of literature than any other sport. The existence of this vast number of colorful titles has prompted many members of our fraternity to get involved in collecting books about fishing, or fish, or fly tying or any of the many other activities that are a part of our fascinating sport.

There are, basically, two kinds of fishing book collectors. One is the casual collector who picks up a book because he likes it and then keeps it for future reference and pleasure. The other is the serious collector—one who combs the dealers' lists, prowls the back aisles of musty used-book stores and surreptitiously dips into his wife's sugar bowl money when he finds out a used Derrydale is suddenly available. This type generally is incurable; he may not—in fact, often doesn't—even read all the books he has. His joy is in having them—the more the merrier, the rarer the better—and it makes little difference to him whether they are really worth reading or not.

You may not find yourself in either category, but if you spend very much time in the pursuit of fishing knowledge the chances are good that you will eventually become at least a casual collector of angling books. And there is always a chance that you will fall off the edge and become a serious collector. Either way, you stand to benefit by knowing which books are valuable and which are not. In an age when inflation seems to have become as much a certainty as death and taxes, books can appreciate quickly in value and may represent a legitimate monetary investment as well as an investment in pleasure. The question is, which books will appreciate most quickly, and which ones won't?

Knowing that question probably has been keeping you awake at night, we have thoughtfully subjected a recent dealer's list (September, 1976) to a little mathematical analysis.

In order to do this, it was first necessary to separate the many different titles into categories. There are many different categories of fishing books—those about fly tying, those about entomology, those by individual authors, books published during certain periods, books with color fly plates—and on and on. You can arbitrarily select just about any category you want. But for the purpose of this analysis, and to keep matters fairly simple, we selected four different categories for purposes of comparison. The four were: books about trout and/or salmon; books about all other species of fish; books about fly fishing, and books about other fishing methods (bait, lure, spinning, etc.). To find the books in each category on the dealer's list, we searched for titles mentioning the words "trout" and/or "salmon" in the first category and all books whose titles mentioned other species by name in the second.

In the category of books about fly fishing, we searched for titles which contained the specific words "fly fishing" (or fly angling, fishing with the fly, etc., so there was no doubt that the subject of the work was fly fishing). Books whose titles mentioned fly tying, but not fly fishing, were excluded, unless the titles also mentioned "fly fishing" specifically. In the category of books about other methods, titles specifically containing the words "bait fishing," "spin fishing," etc., were chosen. We then recorded the number of titles in each category and averaged the price for each title. The results were interesting:

1. There were 65 titles on trout and/or salmon with an average price of \$16.69 for each book. (Remember, these are all used books.)
2. There were 33 titles on other species (bass, striped bass, pike, tarpon, swordfish, tuna, perch, weakfish, coarse fish, muskies and panfish) with an average price of \$8.86 per book.
3. There were 40 titles specifically about fly fishing with an average cost of \$22.43 per book.
4. There were 25 titles about other methods of angling with an average cost of \$6.89 per book.

The results seem to show clearly that for purposes of investment, you're better off buying a book about trout or salmon than one about bass or some other species. Books about trout or salmon are twice as common as those about other species but, nevertheless, are worth twice as much on the average. Books about fly fishing are an even better investment, being worth on the average more than three times as much as books about other fishing methods—even though, again, books on fly fishing are more common.

No exceedingly rare books were on the dealer's list (the highest price for any volume in the survey was \$75; the lowest was \$1.50; both, interestingly enough, were books about fly fishing) so the survey is not biased by the high value of a very rare work. However, the results cannot be considered totally reliable because of the many other variables that enter into establishing the value of used books (i.e., whether the book is a first edition; if it is, whether it was a limited edition; the condition of the book; whether it is cheaply or expensively bound; whether it is relatively old or relatively new; whether it contains noteworthy illustrations; whether the author is living or dead, etc.) Nevertheless, the results are a general guide to the types of books that represent the best investment for the collector, whether casual or otherwise.

Now, aren't you glad we told you all this?

Book prices today may differ slightly. Remember, this was twenty five years ago. Oh, and by the way, it's not what you thought, that your eyes are going bad; I used a smaller font to get this all on one page! I apologize. Ed.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11 Go Fishing! CREEL NOTES EDITOR OFF TO CHINA	12	13	14 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	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 CLOUD ROOM	22 THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24 Go Fishing!
25 Go Fishing!	26	27 FLYTYER'S ROUNDTABLE 7:00 PM MERCER ISLAND COVENANT CHURCH	28 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	29 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE RAM PUB	30	1 Go Fishing!
2 Go Fishing!	3 WFFC BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM COLLEGE CLUB	4	5 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	6	7 DECEMBER CREEL NOTES FROZEN	8 WDFW WILD STEELHEAD MEETING AT VANCOUVER, WA
9 Go Fishing!	10	11	12 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	13	14	15 TREE PLANTING AT GRIFFIN CREEK
16 Go Fishing!	17	18 PARTY TIME FOR ALL GOOD WFFC MEMBERS AND GUESTS	19 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	20	21	22 Go Fishing! If you DARE!