

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXX NO.2

FEBRUARY, 2020

President's Riffle

One of the primary goals that your Board and Committee members are focused on this year is to increase membership participation in all of the club's activities.



In 2019, 42% of the Membership attended one or more Dinner Meetings and 15% attended one or more Outings.

Earlier this month you received an emailed survey asking you to evaluate the Club's Dinner Meetings and Outings and to give feedback on how they could be improved on to better support your fly fishing interests and increase your participation.

The survey should take you around 5 minutes to complete. We need your help to improve the WFFC's Dinner Meetings and Outings value and attendance, so please fill out the survey.

Another big focus for the Board and Committee Chairs this month is the 2020 WFFC Budget, which will be presented to the membership for approval at the February 18th Dinner Meeting. We will be reaching into our savings to fund an excellent slate of Dinner Meeting speakers along with increased funding for our Outreach, Conservation and Youth programs.

Besides the Holiday Fundraiser, the other primary funds generator for the club are the memberships annual dues and now is the time for you to renew yours, if you have not already done so. It's easy to do, just login to the Members Only side of the website and click on the "Dues Payment" pictured tile to pay your Active (\$80) or Associate (\$50) 2020 Dues. No annual dues are required for Senior or Honorary members.

I hope that you are planning to attend the February 18th Dinner Meeting to once again hear Lynda Mapes, who is the Seattle Times environmental investigative reporter. She will provide insightful observations on the plight of the Puget Sound Orca Whales and Salmon and the critical actions needed to help recover them.

Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart

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The NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy Gear Up for 2020

There is no better opportunity for our girls and boys, 12-16, to learn the sport of fly fishing and the merits of conservation. The last full week of June 21-27, 2020. The Academy will be held again at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The applicant must write an essay explaining why they would like to attend the Academy and a letter of recommendation is requested from their science teacher, school counselor or responsible person. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2020. Financial Aid is available.

Jim Brosio is lining up the Academy instructors and we are very pleased to learn, most of the instructors from our 2019 event will

be returning. We are very fortunate to have the most amazing, talented instructors in conservation, fly tying and casting, from our Pacific NW fly fishing clubs and organizations.

Applications may be downloaded from our website – www.nwycffa.com or you may contact:

- Jim Brosio @ brosioj@q.com
- Mike Clancy @ mtclancy39@comcast.net or
- Tom VanGelder @ TVG@comcast.net

Our website – www.nwycffa.com. We also have a Facebook page displaying pictures from past events. Mike Clancy, Co-Director, NWYCFFAcademy

Journalist, Environmentalist, and Author to speak in February

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

She has written five books, including *Elwha*, a River Reborn about the largest dam removal project ever in history and the effort to revive a wilderness watershed in Washington's Olympic National Park, and its once legendary salmon runs. In 2013-14 Lynda was awarded a 9-month Knight fellowship in Science Journalism at MIT. In 2014-15, she was a Bullard Fellow at the Harvard Forest, exploring the human and natural history of a single, 100-year old oak to write *Witness Tree*, published by the University of Washington Press in 2019. Her forthcoming book on the southern resident orca whales' struggle to survive will be published by the Mountaineers

Books in spring of 2021. In addition to her staff position as lead environment reporter at the Seattle Times, Lynda is an associate of the Harvard Forest of Harvard University, in Petersham, MA. She was recognized by NOAA Fisheries in 2016 with the prestigious Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award for her reporting on fish and habitat. She lives in Seattle.

Fly Tyers Needed

Don Simonson has ask for our club to support the Washington State Council of the FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL (FFI)

He is looking for 4 people to tie flies at the casting event to be held on Saturday May 2nd. The event is at Luther Burbank Park on Mercer island.

The tyers are only there to tie for public interest and are not being judged or competing in any form of competitive tying.

Creel Notes

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President

Jim Goedhart

1st Vice President (Membership)

Dexter Brown

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Neal Hoffberg

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Lily Cutler

Treasurer

David Spratt

Secretary

Deborah Katz

Ghillie 1

Marsha Kindinger

Ghillie 2

Ben Porter

Creel Notes Editors

David Ehrich

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Trustees

John Gravendyk, Past President; Marsha Kindinger, Ghillie; Dick Brenning '20; Greg Crumbaker '20; John Narver '21; Jim Young '21; Tom Neu '22; Gary Bergquist '22

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

Flies can be simple as this is just to inform people what tying is like.

If you can support this event please contact

Don Simonson

360-387-5089, 206-999-4562

E mail is dksimo@wavecable.com

On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich
Awards Night

Our President in good standing, James Goedhart opened the meal with a brief outline of the meeting and a hurrah for the new buffet system. Next, Dexter Brown, VP of membership, invited guest introductions and then went straight into new member inductions: Cynthia Ferrucci, Jeremy Jesper, Robert Kettering, and Deanna Slusher. We then called up Peter Baird to do the honors. After a short and painless inquisition, Dexter handed out a plastic bag of goodies. Pete spoke emotionally of days gone by, barely remembered if not for Back Casts. After those soft words, came the call to service and a genuine welcome.

Tonight, good members, is Awards Night, formerly an occasion requiring coat and tie. I told the President that if the Ghillie would get busy and set up some fines, we'd have a new fundraiser. He declined, bowing to lower standards.

Fishing reports ranged from Tennessee to Louisiana, from brown trout to red fish. No one seemed to have touched a trout in local waters. Committee reports were no less stirring. Fly tying class is in week three; Creel Notes needs your writing; a plea for prompt payment of dues; and then the awards began!

Bill Neal, Awards Chair, started with the Empty Creel, given out



by Peter Baird who gave us a bit of history. The oldest award, and one given by many past and living members, originated in 1941 as a tongue-in-cheek for "conservation" - aka, catching no fish. The award morphed into a service award, out most coveted award reserved for club members. Our oldest recipient, Fran Wood, has recently moved. Other recipients, still among us, were acknowledged. Our most recent recipient was unable to lead the toast, but Pete took on the task, by telling us a few things about the man, including service to club, to stream health, and most importantly, to increasing membership. Recently retired due to health reasons, Mike Mosczynski is this year's Empty Creel Award. Recovering from recent hospitalization and unable to attend, through the miracle of modern communication, Mike received the award remotely to great appreciation.

Along with Mike's great effort, two other members have stepped up right off the bat to get the job done around here: Marcia Kindinger and Cooper Hartman.



Next, broadening out our sphere of influence, awards the Lechter Lambuth award goes to Rick Hafele, who will receive it in October when he will come to speak.



The Wet Socks award has also evolved over time from acknowledging a member who skipped out on a fishing trip because of wet socks to an angler who stays with them sport despite having wet socks. Bill noted further evolution to acknowledge those who continue to pursue what we love despite setbacks, demonstrating resilience and determination. Pat Becker.

Bill ended the presentation by noting the many members who have won awards, yet continue to serve the club. You know who these members are. If you don't, get involved and get busy.

From there, Jim McRoberts took the mic and reminded us the good work of Project Healing Waters and to acknowledge the members who have stayed with the program for 10 years. Jim gave out Ten Year pins and showed us a brief slideshow of the program. Each member shared stories highlighting their experiences.

Lastly, Bill gave out a couple Fifty Year awards to Ron Dion and James Schmidt among a few others whose membership has spanned five decades.

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Announcements

Fly Fishing Classes Begin in March

Beginning Fly Fishing Class will be held on Saturday, March 21st, beginning at 9 Am for 6 hours at the Evergreen Covenant Church on Mercer Island.

The class is taught by WFFC members. The class tuition is free for WFFC Members and \$50 Non-Members that can be applied the \$80 dues to become a Washington Fly Fishing Club Member if you choose to do so. Each student will receive a copy the WFFC Beginning Fly Fishing Manual. Class size is limited to 15 students.

For more information about what you will learn at the class and to signup, please click on the following link: <https://wffc.com/event/beginner-fly-fishing-class-march-21-2020/>

The class will be taught by Neal Hoffberg and Jim Goedhart along with Walt Swanson, Tom Neu, Jim McRoberts and Lily Cutler, who will assist with the afternoon's casting instruction session.

Bring your friends and family members along with you to the class to enable them to go with you on fly fishing trip adventures.

Hope to see you there - WFFC Education Committee

Lynnwood Fly Show

Just a heads-up, the Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show is on February 15th and 16th and just thought you might want to check it out.

Here is the link for more information and to buy tickets online: <https://flyfishing-show.com/lynnwood-wa/>

Boyd Aigner Competition 2020

By: Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

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

Here are the 2020 patterns:

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

The schedule for the Competition is as follows:

February Members' Meeting display boxes distributed

April Members' Meeting flies due

May Members' Meeting judging

June Members' Meeting winners announced

The winner will receive the special WFFC pin developed for the Competition, as well as having his or her name on a rotating plaque. Bob Burdick and I will serve as Coordinators for the Competition. Please contact either of us if you have any questions.

Bill: (c) 206.245.3614; william.neal@stokeslaw.com

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



Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

FOR SALE

Eight foot Walker Bay Skiff.
Excellent car topper. Includes oars and anchor with bow pulley and line stop. \$250.00 cash

Jim Young





Bill Neal congratulates Ron Dion and James Schmidt on fifty years of service to the WFFC.

Our speaker, Lael Johnson, spoke of fishing glacial waters. Lael came west from Kansas, served in the US Army as a surgical tech, and took up fly fishing while keeping hospital privileges, founding LPJ Fly Services. Working mostly on the Olympic Peninsula, he specializes in cloudy water which holds fish in two feet

of water. Stay dry. Keep your knees out of the flow because the fish are right at your feet near shore. Bright flies with big profiles work best in that seam where the depth goes from two feet to ten. Cloudy water means fish in shallow areas.

In very cold weather, rivers like the Queets clear up. Spring and

summer weather melts the glacier and the water gets nice and cloudy. He suggests scouting the river in shallow conditions, so when he comes back in deeper water, he has a map of the pockets and troughs. On subsequent floats, he sets his clients right on those likely places and hopes they know how to set the hook. The key seems to be repetition, a key benefit of being a guide or hiring a guide.

Glacial systems follow the same rule all over the west. Hot weather melts glaciers and sends cloudy cold water. Big, showy flies grab attention. Clearer water raises visibility and requires deeper casts. Know the rules, apply the rules, and catch fish.

Lael teaches his clients, ties up some mean flies (e.g. The Night Crawler), and passes on the information with every trip.



Bob Birkner recognizes those members who have served Project Healing Waters for ten years. From left to right: Jim McRoberts, Hugh Clark, Chuck Ballard, Bob Birkner, and Dick Brening. Bob also shared a video collage of PHW highlights.



Washington Fly Fishing Club

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February

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

This month's program is on January 18. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month: Lynda V. Mapes is a reporter at the Seattle Times, where she specializes in coverage of the environment. She will be speaking about her forthcoming book on the southern resident orca whales' struggle to survive and their dependence on salmon to sustain them and what needs to be done to save them.