

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



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President's Riffle

I hope that all of you are safe and healthy during this serious COVID-19 outbreak. The outbreak is showing some signs of slowing down, but it is not over, and most likely it will take several more months before we will be able to go fishing and met together as we have in the past. During the “virtual” Board Meeting on April 7th, it was decided to extend the cancellation of the Dinner Meetings, Classes, Outings and the Fly-Tying Forums through July. Hopefully we will be able to start holding the club’s events together once again in August, but that will depend on our Governor’s restrictions.

I stated in the March Creel Riffle that I would “have more about what steps the Board will be taking to improve the Dinner Meetings, Outings and other aspects of the club” based on the February Survey findings. However, due to the COVID-19 situation, our focus has been on what we need to do to keep the membership safe and involved “virtually” using email blasts and webinars. The Board will be working more on what we can do to improve the club’s activities starting next month.

Below are some of the new “virtual” activities we have initiated:

- Neal Hoffberg, our Programs VP, has organized two webinar presentations to be made by our sched-



uled dinner meeting speakers for April and May: Jim Cox of the Wester Rivers Conservancy and Dave McCoy of Emerald Water Anglers. We will work to have webinar speakers for June and July if necessary. You will receive emails before each webinar with date time and instructions on how to sign-in to hear the speaker’s presentation live or to view recording of it afterwards.

- We have started weekly emailed links from our Heritage library of video interviews of current and past members conducted by Chuck Ballard for your enjoyment.

- Bill Neal confirmed that the Boyd Aigner fly tying competition is still on with the flies to be turned in and voted on once dinner meetings are able to be held, so keep tying those flies.

If you have any ideas on how to engage the “staying home” WFFC membership remotely, I would greatly appreciate your emailing them to me at JLGoedhart@gmail.com.

Tight lines and stay Healthy – Jim Goedhart

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Cancellations & Announcements

2020 NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy Cancelled

Jim and I have decided that it is necessary to cancel the 2020 Academy. We think it is the smart and correct thing to do, considering what possible event that could happen while at Gwinwood. Not only should we consider the safety of the kids, but also the staff. Another thing, we have only two applications so far, and one is a carry over from last year. Jim and I will respond to any comments, but we honestly think this is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your support.

Mike and Jim

Folks:

Just so you know, if you haven't been watching the news, fishing is now banned in all of Washington state. As of March 25, 2020, you can't wet a line. Although most of us know fishing as an individual activity where we enjoy solitude and quiet, some apparently like crowds and "combat fishing". So no angling for you!

Remember! When fly rods are outlawed, only outlaws will have fly rods!

Dave Schorsch

Outings committee

Governor orders 14-day quarantine for travelers arriving in Montana

GREAT FALLS — Governor Steve Bullock on Monday afternoon directed that travelers arriving from another state or country to Montana for non-work-related purposes undergo a 14-day self-quarantine.

The directive follows the governor's prior travel advisory and last week's "Stay at Home" directive.

In a new news release, Bullock said the directive applies both to Montana residents and non-residents entering the state for non-work-related purposes. It requires a self-quarantine for 14 days, or the duration of a non-work trip to Montana, whichever is shorter.

It also instructs the Montana Department of Commerce to advise

vacation listing and rental sites that they must notify potential out-of-state renters about the quarantine requirement. Health care workers are excluded from the directive.

In addition, the directive authorizes the Montana National Guard to conduct temperature checks at Montana airports and rail stations and screen for potential exposure history for travelers arriving in Montana from another state or country.

There is no word yet on how the directive will be implemented and/or enforced; we will update you as we get more information.

As of Monday evening (March 30), there are 177 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Montana, and four deaths.

The first death was 77-year old Lincoln County resident Jim Tomlin, whose death was reported on Friday. On Sunday afternoon, public health officials confirmed the death of a Madison County resident who had tested positive for COVID-19. On Monday, officials in Toole County confirmed two deaths attributed to COVID-19.

With the cancellation of the April members meeting, we would like to extend by one month the Boyd Aigner Competition dates. That is, flies due at the May meeting, judging at the June meeting, and winner announced at the July meeting. If current status continues so that there is no May meeting, we would likely extend further. We do not intend to cancel the Competition.

Thanks for your continued WFFC Support - Bill Neal WFFC Awards Chair

Hey, all you indoor anglers:

Just a note to remind you all that in spite of the current restrictions on our pastime, we need to support the agency that makes it all possible. It is time to renew licenses and catch record cards. The season runs from April 1 to March 31. Our license

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

fees pay for all the things WDFW does, including stocking of trout and enforcement of regulations and closures. So while you're looking out the window, wishing you were out there, you could be on line getting your license. It's also a great time to go over those neglected fly lines, so you're up to speed when you can get on the water. Hang in there!

Dave Schorsch

On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

COVID19 SPECIAL EDITION



I knew the meeting was toast before I even planned for this edition and given the lack of a meeting last month, what's to report?

In a parallel universe, I took a trip in March to Rock Creek, Montana where we engaged in various forms of March Madness, both fishing March Browns on the river and retiring to the bar to watch the round ball version on TV.

If I listened to the president, we would have gone, but my partners listened to their wives instead and left me without a lift. By the time I got my van restored to greatness, Montana wanted a 14 day quarantine upon arrival. Does camping by the river in a self-contained van qualify as self-quarantine? Doesn't fishing imply the same thing? By the time I figure this out, the melt will be on.

And so, members reached deeply into their drawers (as in desk drawers, silly!) and found things to write about and things to report. Stay tuned to the virtual meeting as brought to you by the record of choice; Creel Notes.

Corrections: The photo of our previous guest speaker mis-identified Lynda Mapes.



The Song of the River

by William Randolph Hearst

The snow falls on the mountain

And the water runs down to the spring,

And the spring in a turbulent fountain,

With a song of youth to sing,

Runs down to the riotous river,

And the river flows to the sea,

And the water again goes back in rain

To the hills where it used to be.

And I wonder if life's deep mystery

Isn't much like the rain and the snow

Returning through all eternity

To the places it used to know.

For life was born on the lofty heights

And flows in a laughing stream,

To the river below

Whose onward flow

Ends in a peaceful dream.

And so at last,

When our life has passed

And the river has run its course,

It again goes back,

O'er the selfsame track,

To the mountain which was its source.

So why prize life

Or dread what is to be?

The river ran its allotted span

Till it reached the silent sea.

Then the water harked back to the mountaintop

To begin its course once more.

So we shall run

The course begun

Till we reach the silent shore.

Then revisit earth

In a pure rebirth

From the heart of the virgin snow.

So don't ask why

We live or die,

Or whither, or when we go

Or wonder about the mysteries

That only God may know.

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.

Fishing Report

Quincy Lake 3/20/20

by Mike Nolan

On Friday, 3/20/20, I made the drive into the Quincy Wildlife Area to fish Quincy Lake. The weather was warm and sunny with a slight wind making tiny ripples on the lake surface. My wife Linda set out to hike the circumference of the



lake shore while my plan was to fish from my float tube in the lake.

I launched my tube from the lake shore and I instantly felt a cold chill as water began to infiltrate through a small hole in my neoprene waders. I immediately went into a scuba diver mode and didn't let the leaking waders interfere with my fishing.

I started out with a 5W intermediate sink line and a wet fly which didn't produce any takes. I switched to a 5W full sink line with a wet fly and I started to get frequent hookups using a slow strip or trolling technique. I fished approximately 3 hours and hooked about 20 rainbow trout averaging 10" in size with the largest fish approaching 14" in size. The feisty fish frequently self-released and I only landed about 8 trout to the net.

The catching started to decline, and I decided to head back to the shore prior to my lower leg and foot becoming totally

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numb. I loaded my gear into the truck and turned the heat on high for the trip home.

Fishing in the "Driftless Area" in Wisconsin.

By John Townsell

Hi Dave (and WFFC). This was written on April 11, 2020. Last night (April 13), just a little ways North of us, the folks got up to 12.5 inches of snow!

Not to "rub it in" but our catch and release trout fishing season here in Wisconsin is open and Ole Lucky John went fishing (4/11/2020). I have been out fishing several times this Spring when the weather allowed. Catching was slow but worthwhile.

Fly fishing on a spring creek. 58 degrees. Hazy but not cloudy. Started about 10:30AM. Enjoyed a lazy, slow day and quit at 7:00PM.. Didn't see rises so tried nymphing with limited success. Saw a few small splashy rises (usually indicative of little fish playing around but maybe...) so I tried a dry fly anyway. Immediate strike from a nice fish. I used a CDC and Elk (actually, I use deer hair in my ties). You can look it up on YouTube but it is just an Elk Hair Caddis with a dun-color CDC feather wrapped as the body in a special way. When fishing slowed down in the hole that I was in, I put on a white bead head/black body, ribbed chironomid midge (one that Donn Mills tied and Lucky won at the Banquet!). Boy, did the action pick up! Mostly on the dry fly but several on the chironomid. I caught "too many to count" out of just that one hole! Yeah, I know, some of my fishing



buddies say that Lucky can't count very high!). Probably a dozen or more out of just that one hole.

I continued on up the stream with success; just not as many out of any one hole. Larger ones were about 14".

I was using my #5 9' 6" rod because I thought that I would only be nymphing. Yesterday, I explained why I like a long rod to Birkner. It is because of the configuration of the streams: tall banks and high weeds.

Anyway, next outing, I believe that I will try taking one of my short #2 rods. I told Birkner





that I have several between 5' 2" on up to 8'. I love them!

Now for some statistics: There are 2,444 trout streams in Wisconsin—put end to end, they would stretch more than 956 miles (1,540 kilometers). And most of them have permanent fishing easements which means that they are usually enhanced with stream improvements. The owners are paid a nice sum for these easements; they still retain ownership of the land. Most of the owners freely let anglers fish even where there are no easements. Many more easements are “in the works” but it all takes time. And money.

When you look at some (not all!) of these spring creeks, you think...Wow! No trees and out in the middle of a cornfield! (See attached photos). But the streams are all fed by springs where the water (with lots of minerals in it!) comes out of the ground at 47-49 degrees and stays cold enough for trout for miles and miles. This “mineralized” spring water can support in-stream bug life (and scuds) up to 50% TIMES more

than some “freestone” streams (streams not fed by springs and get their flow from runoff).

In the hilly country here, these spring creeks have wonderful “serpentine” bends and lots of pools and riffles. The streams are enhanced with rocks, logs, artificial “undercut banks” on corners (wood “tables” made from “green timber” preferably; named by the acronym LUNKER” structures with huge rocks and dirt (for landscaping) placed on them to keep them from washing away in the floods), waterfalls and “plunge pools”, clear water and rock bottoms. Don’t want trees; a lot are actually removed (for flood control purposes and to cut down on shade) when doing stream improvements. No need to shade the water to make it cool (like on a warm-water freestone stream). And the sunlight promotes more bug life in the streambed vegetation. I could go on and on! Some of the enhanced streams have had the banks “cut down” close to level of the streambed at 30 degrees (from level) and then seeded with native, fast-growing grass; this prevents there being a high bank for the floods to erode.

I’ll enclose part of the letter that I sent to Birkner explaining how these streams came to be... They are cut through the eroded topsoil that the early settlers caused to be eroded off the hillsides and into the valleys where it is now rich farming bottom land! But the streams are spring fed and crystal clear! And cold! The water comes out of the ground at 47-49 degrees and is really cold if you put your hand down into it for any length of time (like I do clearing out underwater limbs and snags to

Continued on next page

Red/ Green Chironomid Pupa

By Dennis Westover

The Corona virus has me spending more time indoors at a time when I should be thinking about the start of chironomid fishing. With time on my hands I’ve been tying some of my favorite chironomid patterns.

One of my favorites and one of the more versatile early season patterns is the Red/ Green Pupa. Early season is characterized by the emergence of the chironomid larvae more commonly known as the bloodworm. Most larvae are red, very slender and about an inch long. They emerge out of the bottom mud and migrate along the bottom from deeper water into the shallows.

There are dozens of patterns that are effective imitations of the bloodworm but I like this pattern because it does double duty as both a larvae and as the second stage of the chironomid, the pupa. Fishing this pattern with a floating line and a strike indicator about a foot off the bottom in 8 to 18 feet of water is deadly in the early spring.

- Thread – UTC red 70
- Hook- Alec Jackson Chironomid hook or TMC 2302 Size 10,12,14
- Bead – White, sized to hook. (smaller beads produce better proportions)
- Rib – Red UTC wire, small
- Underbody – UTC red holographic tinsel, med
- Tinsel rib – UTC green holographic, med
- Counter wrap the red wire rib and coat the fly with UV fly finish, Sally Hansens or Super glue.



improve a hole's fishing access).

I'm going to enclose a portion of a letter that I wrote to my family about going out today. I am also attaching some photos of the stream (and one brown trout). I usually don't take fish photos but decided to today since I was taking photos of the stream and intended writing to you guys.

Here is an excellent article about "Fishing in the driftless area in Wisconsin" (and surrounding states). It was written by a fishing buddy who is the Past-President of our local Coulee Region Trout Unlimited Chapter (of which I am a Board Member):

<https://www.couleeregiontu.org/post/getting-started-on-trout-fishing-in-the-driftless>

Anyway, here are the excerpts of the letter that I sent to Birkner and one that I sent to our children about today (and the Easter snowstorm that is coming tomorrow!).

Hope that all is well and that they soon open up the fishing season in Washington for you. I hope that I will return this Summer to enjoy fishing in the Great Northwest!

Lucky John T.

Here is the excerpt of the letter that I sent to Birkner (who used to long-ago live in Wisconsin right near where I live now!):

You know the story here in Wisconsin....the early settlers (1850-60s?) farmed the "European way"...furrows ran up and down the hillsides; not around following the contour. Massive erosion! This continued into the 1940-1950s. Anyway, the topsoil all washed off and ran into the valley floors. Today this is rich "bottomland" up to

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15'-20' deep! Not all that deep but many (of my favorite) places are.

The spring creeks have the same bedrock bottoms they have always had but they now "cut" through up to 15' of topsoil with fairly steep banks (in some places).

I love to get right in the streams to fish (short casts) but sometimes there are silt beds (which support all of that wonderful vegetation and stream bugs!) and which are treacherous/impossible/dangerous to wade. So I have found that the easy way (and much faster) is to walk along the level ground at the top of the bank and cast "fine and far-off". 40'-50+' casts work pretty good, especially for nymphing with a strike indicator (which I can see). Dry flies also do well sometimes but shorter casts from in the stream are needed so that I can see the "itsy-bitsy, teensy-weenie" size dry flies that I use.

Anyway, my rod of choice for these longer casts is a 9' 6" or a 9' #5. You won't be surprised that I have a 5' 2", 5' 6", 6', 6' 6", 7', 8' etc. in 2 wt. I use them a lot in brushy areas or dry fly fishing but they are a delight to use anywhere! (Ed....Bob, I'm

not sure about the 6' one!)

Here is the letter that I sent to our children today about the fishing and the snowstorm that is coming tonight and tomorrow!:

Wishing everyone an early Happy Easter. Hope that it is filled with peace, joy, health, glorious sunshine, a visit from the Easter Bunny, Easter eggs, and fun to be had by all.

I am sending this early because, here in Wisconsin, we are expecting 6"-10" of snow tomorrow!

Today it was 58 and guess what...(Ole Lucky) decided to practice "social distancing" and went fly fishing out on one of our spring creeks! The nearest person was a quarter of a mile away...and he was on a tractor!

I had a wonderful day. The red-winged blackbirds serenaded me, a pair of Canadian Honkers were "setting up a household" on the stream with lots of honking and carrying on, a bald eagle flew right over my head, some deer came to visit....and, best of all, the brown trout were eating!. I caught (and released) "more than I can count" (as I tell my fishing buddies) (and they claim that I can't count very high!). Really, I probably had more than 2 dozen trout on and landed most of them. They were smallish...the larger ones were probably 14" or so. They were feeding on the surface so every time one struck, there was a splash as they took. It was fun!

I knew that the snowstorm was coming and that it is to be in the 30s and 40s for the next (10) days so I figured that I had better get out while I could.

Sent from my three-weight



Washington Fly Fishing Club

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April, 2020

Meeting Cancelled



At the discretion of the WFFC Board Members, the decision has been made to cancel the April 21st Dinner Meeting based on the King County Health Services recommendation urging all individuals to avoid all large group meetings due to the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

The current COVID-19 virus situation is still evolving, but the Board feels that it is in the best health interests for our membership and guests to prudently cancel this dinner meeting. Keep in touch with the website for updates on outings.