

# Creel Notes from the



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

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)

Member of



MMXX NO. 6

JUNE, 2020

## President's Riffle

The good news, you can now go fishing with a guide on the Yakima river. The bad news, we cannot go on WFFC Outings or attend Dinner Meetings together until Washington counties are in Phase III for COVID-19. At that point, we can have gatherings for up to 50 people. Hopefully we will reach Phase III sometime later this year.

Were you one of the 50 who Zoomed to see and hear Day McCoy's great fishing travelogue presentation on May 16th? If you did not, you miss some really great photos and fishing adventures stories. The next Zoom Speaker will be Brian O'Keef on June 16th. He will present useful tips on how to take better fly fishing photos that emphasize being fast and easy on the fish. He'll cover the most important features on your phone/camera, along with dozens of easy tips and waterproof options. You can apply these tips, no matter what kind of camera you use, to take great looking pictures. I hope you are able to join us for Brian's instructional session.

Neal Hoffberg has kicked off the first Fly Tying Forum Zoom meeting on Wednesday, June 10th. We will be tying Rene Harrop's "Triple Brassie" chironomid, using the list of materials that was emailed 5 days ahead of time. In the Zoom session, you will see a close up of the fly being tied, step by step, with narrative instructions, allowing all to follow along and ask questions. The goal of the Fly Tying Form is to continue teaching and advancing the tying abilities



of all WFFC members and will be held bimonthly until the physical sessions can be held once again.

According to the WFFC Bylaws, ARTICLE VII. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS Section 1, "a Nominating Committee shall be elected by ballot of members present at the July meeting each year. The Committee shall consist of the five (5) nominees receiving the largest number of votes. Incumbent officers are ineligible to serve on this Committee". If you would be willing to be on the Nomination Committee to help nominate the new board slate for 2021 to be voted on in November, please email me at [JLGoedhart@gmail.com](mailto:JLGoedhart@gmail.com). The July 21st vote will need to be done remotely via a broadcasted email as we will not be holding a physical Dinner Meeting due to the COVID-19 Phase I-II gatherings restrictions.

During these unsettled times I would encourage each of you to reach out to your fellow members and invite them to go fishing with you. If you are searching for a place to go fishing, I suggest that you go to the members only side of the website and click on the Tips & Tricks panel and then on the "Where to Go Fly Fishing in Washington for Trout and Salmon" informational document.

Stay Safe and Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart WFFC President

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## Fishing Report

### Dunkin' Donuts\* on Lake Nahwahtzel

by Lily Cutler

May 11 2020

Time spent fishing: 10am-2pm

Conditions: Windy, over-cast, choppy water, light rain

Catches: Not even a bite

I arrived excited to try my float tube for the first time and quickly realized how difficult it is to maneuver with fins alone in choppy water. I have been warned about this. A strong westerly wind (if I was oriented correctly) made casting where I wanted to all but impossible. I tied on a dry fly first, but from what I'm told this is not a lake for dries. I used a streamer next and gave up after everyone has had already headed out. One angler (whose rod was dressed with sinking line) said he's never even attempted to fish a dry fly on this lake and suggested Leech Lake instead. I plan to fish there soon especially since it's fly-fishing only, but I've heard that Leech doesn't always thaw out until June. (Is this true?) The only action I witnessed was a single fish caught by a boat of bait fishermen, which appeared to be a silvery trout in the 12-14 inch range. All told, conditions were bad, but a day spent fishing is never wasted.

I almost left out the best part. No one told me how to get out of a float tube and, like an idiot, I tried to stand up before taking off my fins. I immediately lost my balance and fell very awkwardly, right in between two proper anglers pulling up their pontoon boats. Then I did it again once more, with feeling. The fellow to my right remarked, "Once wasn't enough for ya, huh?" "A-yuh, I guess not" I replied.

\*Lily just nominated herself for two awards.

### Bait Over Flies; Score One for the Chuckers.

By Bob Burdick

Just a note on Chapin Henry and my outing on Offutt Lake on May 29th.

As you may recall Offutt Lake was one of the 9 lakes that received a slug of Jumbo trout plants in April and May prompting us to choose this lake as our destination. Neither of us had fished it before, but noted that it had several attractive features in addition to the big fish plant. It was quite large at 191 acres offering one long wooded shoreline, without houses, with a bank that dropped off quite steeply to 20 feet. It also had a large boat ramp with toilets, allowed fishing with two rods at once, and was within 10 miles of the Best Western motel in Olympia where we stayed the previous night.

Starting our fishing at 6 am we rowed out into an absolute windless calm with nary a fish breaking the surface. Rowing down the shoreline toward the wooded section I trailed a sparkly minnow imitation which attracted a 12 inch rainbow. Pumping that fish's stomach yielded a mass of what I interpreted as semi-digested, size 16, chironomids, from the previous day. After anchoring up, I immediately dropped a chironomid under a bobber in 10 feet of water while simultaneously turning on my depth-finder to find to my consternation that the lake temperature was 67 degrees. After working the chironomid unsuccessfully for 20 minutes I switched in succession to a Squirmy Wormy, an egg-sucking leech, a Callibaetis nymph, a Nyergis nymph, a damsel fly nymph, back to a chironomid, then a minnow imitation, and finally a dragon fly imitation using sink tip, intermediate and type 4 lines—all to no avail.

Chapin was having a similar one fish experience while trolling. And of course, as luck might have it, we were forced to watch the gear fishermen with envy through the morning as they intermittently added prime fish to their burgeoning stringers despite the water temperature and our lack of success.

## Creel Notes

is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

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

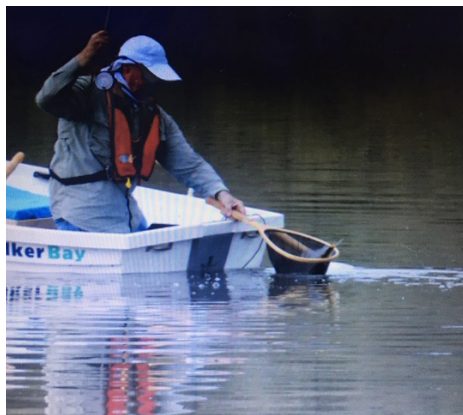
By 10:30 when the sun was up we threw in the towel, loaded our boats and prepared to drive home. And as might be expected Chapin just had to ask one last burning question of the gear guys cleaning fish at the ramp. "what was working for you?" The reply, although ageless, should not have been a surprise: "Popgear and worms". Score one for the bait fishermen, zero for the flycasters.

## Hit it and Quit it on Lakes Chopaka and Big Twin

by Chuck Ballard

I went to Chopaka on Friday 5/29. Fishing was slow for me three fish and only one 17". There didn't seem to be many fish and the hatch was very minimal.

Ron Tschder and I also fished Big Twin lake earlier in that week. The fish are really big there.



Tschder brings a nice fish to the net on Big Twin

I had seven fish on and landed five or six that we're over 20" and one really big one at 24"!!!

Thursday, June 4 Ron Tschder and I went back to Chopaka. What a shock the "no camping" was completely ignored! Looked like Memorial Day, bummed for those of us who follow the rules!

Anyway fishing was better for a day that started with a 25 mph wind that eventually diminished to calm. The hatch was much better and I managed seven to hand. The biggest I saw or caught was 17".

So Ron and I decided to go back to big twin Friday. It was overcast and warm, perfect conditions. I caught seven two were over 20 however there had been a lot of pressure on the lake over the past week so there were fewer big fish observed.

The water levels at Big Twin, Rat Lake, Campbell are all very low, however Chopaka was great. Location apparently made the difference.

Flies used were mayfly emergers and zebra nymph on a fill sink line. The last 20" fish I caught in big twin Friday was on a balanced ruby rat fished deep on a full sink line.

## Nearby Lakes, Distant Fish

by Rich Gaspar

I leave Seattle early, drive 2-3 hours, fish 4-5 hours, then drive back to Seattle. Here's a few notes on nearby lakes:

1) Hicks (nothing—"Oh!-I don't want to hit you in the head with my casting lure, you better move"),

2) Lake Sylvia (nothing-bumper cars packed on lake-small water and it was packed, gear guys on water and shore),

3) Spencer (nothing-narrow launch site packed with casting gear folks, much of lake really shallow),

4) Rattlesnake-got there closed-ugh,

5) Lake Sammamish-first time nothing, don't know it at all, just a shot after Rattlesnake.

6) Lone Lake was algae'd out about a month ago...

Wow, lots of folks getting out after being inside. I gave up steel head combat fishing a long time ago. I also miss my boyhood growing up with Eastern Washington fisheries. There might not be the fish to hand, but the openness of the land, lack of houses, and blue skies are a treat by themselves.

## Slashers on Leech Lake

by Lily Cutler

I fished Leech Lake on Thursday, May 28 2020 in a small Alpacka raft. This was my second time using the Sage X 590-4, which is the best trout rod I think I've ever used. Conditions on the lake were spectacular and the air temp was about 75-80 degrees.

I put my raft in about 11:30am. Full sun on the lake allowed visibility to the bottom for the most part, despite occasional gusts of light wind. Brookies were slashing all

around and feeding on the surface.

To me, slashers often indicate smaller (and dumber) fish, and the big boys were likely hanging out in cooler spots. Several other anglers on the water recommended small black dries or copper johns with split shot, but I had no luck with those and I refuse to use a bobber. I tried a streamer with no luck, even though I've caught tons of brook trout on the east coast with that particular streamer pattern.

I finally threw all advice and caution to the wind and tied on a big green buggy baetis and started getting bites. I caught one 11". I saw another boat bring in a 16" brookie and a third angler catch a 10". No one was hauling in big numbers, but we all caught, so no complaints!

Fished til 4pm. Can't wait to camp out at this lake and get out for the morning and evening rises, but I've got to say that this lake has clearly been stocked and there are fish everywhere - so don't be shy about fishing in the middle of the day. Small hatches of tiny white and black bugs were coming off and the fish were eating ravenously in full sun. Not a bad view either.

### 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***

### **Lost Lake**

by Dave Schorsch

After several days of rain last week, I decided to go out anyway, because you can't catch any fish at home. I loaded the boat on top, threw in some gear, and ran back in the house to dry off. Sunday morning I was driving through the rain on the way to Lost lake, in Mason county.

Lost lake is one of the west side waters that the WDFW has been stocking with several different varieties and sizes of trout over the years, to create a quality fishery. Rainbows, cutthroat, jumbo Satsop Springs trout, and bass are to be had. It lies about 20 minutes south of Shelton, in the old clearcut hellzone around Mcleary.

When I arrived, the bank anglers at the ramp were landing fish on bait, some over 18 inches! No rain, and some blue sky showing to start, not bad. I fished a couple small coves out of the wind and a fairly exposed point, which proved to be the ticket. Slow full sinker and an olive hale-bopp leech in olive worked on a half dozen trout and four bass. I switched over to the old standby black wolley bugger in size huge, and trolled over to Camp Bishop, where the shoreline is undeveloped. Wham! 4 pounds of Satsop springs jumbo in the air! After a spirited fight and release, I retraced my route, and hit another, only to lose my megafly to the trout.

About half an hour later, the wind picked up more, and I headed for the ramp. Just short of the ramp, I revisited the little south cove, and caught a nice 13 inch rainbow. Oddly, something was sticking out of the fishes back. A yellow spaghetti tag! I removed the tag and released the fish, just as the rain started. At the ramp, I mentioned the tag to someone, and everybody got excited. Seems there's a WDFW fishing derby, and I caught one of the five in Lost lake. So, I guess

I'll find out one day what I've won, other than a nice day on the water.

### **Spencer and Leland Lakes Enjoy Big Fish Plants**

by Jerry Kindinger

Since the last WFFC "meeting" Marcie and I have fished Spencer Lake in Mason County and Leland in Jefferson County. Both were fun adventures and a few fish were had. We employed a bankers hours approach to both lakes. On the water at the crack of 10:30AM; off at 4:30PM. weather was overcast both days. Not many boats on either lake.

We fished Spencer Lake the week of May 25th. The lake has a pretty setting and good boat launch. Based upon WDFW site, over 10,000 fish had been planted there within the last month. What attracted us though was Bob Burdick's email indicating that Spencer was one of the West side lakes where Jumbo fish ( 3 lbs plus) had been planted. Big fish was the goal.

This was also our first chance to try out the Minn Kota trolling motor Marcie got me for Christmas. I was excited to do so, but beginning with the launch we had one misadventure after another amply demonstrating that I need lots more practice using this thing.

In the end, no Jumbos were caught but 6-7 nice rainbows in the 10-14" range and one 16 incher were brought to hand. However, we had to work for them, trying many different set ups. All fish were caught trolling a sinking line and dragging either a wire worm trailing a bright yellow woolly bugger, or a bright yellow bugger trailing a caddis or dark nymph (size 16's). We caught fish on all of the bugs. Chromomid still fishing was a bust. Bait fishermen cut a fat hog. We saw lots of fish caught; several right at the boat ramp from the shore. This lake is worth a trip.

We fished Leland Lake June 2nd. Leland has fewer houses on it. There is a nice picnic area across the road

from the boat launch, but no overnight camping is permitted. Our launch went smoother than the Spencer Lake experience. This is a nice surprisingly warm long lake. Swimmers said the water temperature was in the 60's. Fairly strong afternoon winds made me grateful for the Minn Kota going back to the ramp. One gentleman in a pontoon boat required a tow having become exhausted fighting the wind. By day's end, we had several takes, but ultimately caught one fish each in the 12" range. I hooked up trolling, a sinking line and a dark olive woolly bugger trailing a small dark nymph. During the mid day, a few fish were rising so we stopped for lunch and tried dry flies. Marcie caught her "slab" on a high viz Griffith's Gnat which she had tied. She had a couple of other takes as well. I fished a Purple Haze with modest success but no fish to hand. On the day we fished, we saw few fish caught.

We are grateful to Bob Burdick and Dave Schorsch who both provided wonderful information about these lakes and others. Next stop, Montana later this week for a guys trip. We plan to fish the Missouri, Gallatin and the Missouri. To be continued....



This photo has nothing to do with anything, but it suggests that fishing reports with photos are better



# Antilon Lake Boat Launch Project Shows Results of Club Efforts

The photos show the results of our donation toward redoing the Antilon lake boat ramp.

The ramp (below right) was inaccessible due to runoff and cattails that we're over growing the area.

As a part of the project Gil Biles also put in a creel census station (right) and waste collection station acknowledging our participation.

This lake is near Manson Wa. and has brown trout plantings annually by the local Chelan PUD . There is a unimproved camping area near this ramp and a formal one on the upper lake . Members should give it a try , especially in the fall . There are some bigger browns then.

Chuck Ballard



Dear friends,

Since it appears that the corona virus will be calling the shots for a while longer, I would like to offer a home-made mask to anyone who needs one.

Please know that they are not medical grade. I make them from 100% cotton so they are washable.

I can modify as needed with ties that go around the head or elastic over the ears.

I make 2 styles: rectangular or fitted.

Fish find them very attractive.

I am happy to drop it in the mail to you. If you feel compelled to do so, you could make a donation to WFFC or Meals on Wheels at Sound Generations.

Please let me know via email: [dnaomikatz@gmail.com](mailto:dnaomikatz@gmail.com)





**Washington Fly Fishing Club**

**P.O. Box 639**

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**June, 2020**

## **Meeting Cancelled**



**At the discretion of the WFFC Board Members, the decision has been made to cancel the June 16th 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.**