

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXX NO. 7

AUGUST, 2020

President's Riffle

In case you did not see my July Creel Notes, at the July Board Meeting, the WFFC Board Members and Trust-



ees decided that for the health and safety of our membership, to cancel all Dinner Meetings and Outings events at least through the end of this year due to the COVID19 pandemic. For all of us this is a major disappointment, but realistically, the infection rates are still increasing and until a vaccine is available most all of us would not be willing to attend a gathering with fellow members although we wish we could and stay safe.

Until we can meet together as a membership, we will stay engaged remotely, via the internet presenting monthly Zoom Fly Fishing Speakers and Fly Tying sessions, along with WFFC Heritage, Fishing and Conservation information broadcast emails. In addition, we will also be offering three one hour Zoom Beginning Fly Fishing Class sessions in September that will be presented by Chuck Ballard and myself. If you are interested in attending, go to the WFFC.com website "Fly Fishing Instruction" page for more information about the class. The class is free to all who sign up to attend. If you have any friends and family that you would like to attend as well, please let them know about the class and how to sign up.

This month's August 18th Zoom Speaker is Dave Schorsch. Dave will discuss where we can go fishing on our own on the west side of Washington State during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Instead of our Christmas Dinner this year, we will be holding a virtual Fundraiser this December 13th to 19th using the Greater Giving Non-Profit Auction application. This will allow our members and friends to bid on silent

auction items and make donations. Details will be sent out in the following month on how this will be accomplished. Next year will be a "reopening" of the clubs' activities under the "new normal". This will impact the funds needed to hold dinner meetings, Outings and Education Classes and for increased Conservation and Youth spending. Once again, we will need your generous donations to make this year's virtual fundraiser a success and will be calling on you shortly for your support.

The WFFC Bylaws states in ARTICLE VII. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS Section 1. Nominations, that a Nominating Committee shall be elected by written ballot of members present at the July meeting each year. As we were unable to hold a Dinner Meeting to vote on the Nominating Committee Members to elect them, we did so by sending out an electronic ballot to the membership who elected the following individuals to nominate the slate of 2021 Board Members and Trustees that will be voted on this November:

- Pat Becker
- Kris Kristoferson
- Henry Chapin
- Jim McRoberts
- Chuck Ballard

The club's annual Boyd Aigner Fly Tying competition was held remotely in July, with tied flies from 13 contestants mailed to Bill Neal for judging. The win-

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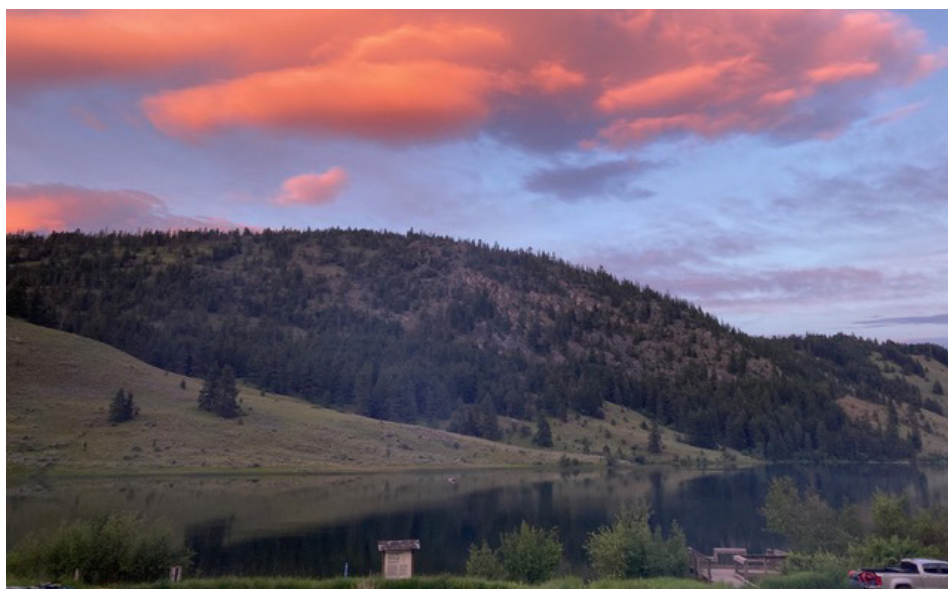
Fishing Report

My Week at Chopaka

by Dick Brening

After hearing that the campground at Chopaka had been officially opened in early June my son Kevin and I headed over there on June 18th.

We knew it was going to be busy there when we counted nearly 30 boats on the water as we drove down the road into the campground.



Brening captures an August sunset on Lake Chopaka

Upon arrival around 1pm we found all of the campsites taken and a lineup of pickup trucks and SUVs across from the boat ramp. The daily collection of day fishers.

Club members Ben Davidson, Ron Little and Mark Pratt were able to get camping spots earlier in the day and were on the water by the time we arrived. We were able to squeeze my small trailer in between two of the sites along shelter row, thanks to some friendly neighbors. Two days later we finally were able to move to a shelter site.

Each day the Chironomid fish-

ers lined up across the lake and looked to be very successful.

The fishing for me was primarily adult damselfly. I was able to catch a few by casting far enough into the reeds to reach the fish who were actively bumping the emerging bugs off the upright reeds or jumping free of the water to take flying bugs. After finally hooking a fish, getting them out of the reeds to my boat was another story. I found that 6lb fluoro-carbon tippet was strong enough to do the job with some care and helped to minimize the trauma time for the fish from hook-up to release. Most

fish were released without having to touch or handle them. My daily fish count was never over single digit, so fishing was slow for me.

The fly pattern I used was an extended body of thin pre-woven material, appropriately colored and marked, with a foam thorax/head and a sparse grizzly hackle on a size 14 short-shank hook. Both Blue and Tan flies worked.

The rainbows were healthy and strong. Almost all the fish were right at 18" long, bright and full of fight. I did catch two 20"+ fish the last day in a driving rain and wind storm on a stimulator pattern. Occasionally a

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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.

black Wooly Bugger would work.

Except for the last day, June 24th, the weather was good and the crowd tolerable. I love Chopaka.

p.s. One thing I didn't love about Chopaka this year was the worst mosquitos I've ever experienced there. Bait Over Flies; Score One for the Chuckers.

Hood Canal 8/5/2020

by Jay Deeds

I fished for about 3 hours this morning on an outgoing tide (my favorite). I tried several different places and found fish in almost all of them. My reason for going to numerous places was the large quantity of dead eel grass floating on the surface, and constantly weeding up. Several of my favorite locations were covered with islands of grass. The grass is the worst that I've seen in my 20 years of fishing the Canal.

I caught several cutts and one jack Coho, the largest being 15 inches. I was using a pink Clouser most of the morning and a 300 grain shooting head. I started with a new fly which is primarily orange on an intermediate tipped line, but had no luck with it. I think that the fly needed to be deeper as it was bright and sunny. I positioned my boat in 10 to 15 feet of water and fished towards shore.

Cedar River Changes

by Neal Hoffberg

The Cedar River changed dramatically this past winter. There are new homes for beautiful rainbows that will rise to a #20 dry fly.



On the Fly

Six Flies

by David Ehrich

I noticed on my last trip to Montana and Idaho, that I had a lot of flies. Stupid amounts and poorly organized. Yet, I fished almost exclusively four dry patterns: Coachman, caddis, Purple Haze, and hoppers. I used a Copper John when I felt ambitious enough to nymph which wasn't often. Five flies! Might I be better off putting six dry flies in various sizes and and fill up one fly box?

I asked some of the "top rods" in the club to give me their choices and only one angler responded. They (used intentionally) did not want to go on the record because it might cause controversy.

Personally, I like the controversy. It could be like old times with people walking out on meetings, telling each other to "bleep-off" and quitting the club. Actually, hold on, I don't really want that, but I would like to trim down the chaos of my fly box. So here is my take on "Six Flies". Dry:

- Purple Haze
- Elk Hair Caddis
- Royal Coachman
- Hopper
- CaddiHopper
- March Brown

As for nymphs:

- Copper John
- San Juan Worm
- Prince Nymph
- Hare's Ear
- Beadhead Pheasant Tail
- Skawla

Hit me with your best shot, fire away!



President's Riffle Continued

ners will be announced in the September Creel Notes along with pictures of the winning flies.

Many of you all have been out fishing on your own which I have heard reports about during our various Zoom meetings. It would be good if on one of your trips you would reach out to a fellow new club member to join you fishing. As we are not able to hold Outings this year, it will help bring our new members into our fellowship of fly fishing. You can find new members on our website Roster. They will have a status of "member since 2019 to 2020". Hope to see you at the upcoming Zoom meeting to hear about Dave's west side secret fishing spots.

Stay Safe and Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart WFFC President



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.

2020 BOYD AIGNER RESULTS

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

For many years now, the judging of the competition has been by the members at a regular monthly meeting. Things are different with no members meetings for the remainder of 2020. For many reasons we wanted to proceed ahead and not carry this into 2021.

Three accomplished fly tying members of the Club were selected to be the judges. None of them was a participant in the 2020 Competition or knew the participant numbers that had been assigned. The 3 judges are Dick Brening, Denny Westover, and Bob Burdick.

The judges have met and selected the winners. Here are the results:

Balanced leech: 1st Dan Henke
2nd (tie) Ron Dion, Chuck Ballard



Female Adams: 1st Chuck Ballard
2nd Dan Henke
3rd (tie) John Tibbs, Ron Dion



Sculpin: 1st Marcia Kindinger
2nd Chuck Ballard
3rd John Tibbs



Overall: 1st Chuck Ballard
2nd Dan Henke
3rd Ron Dion

Announcements

Jerry Swanson Passes

Jerry Swanson who was the WFFC President and Honorary Member was remembered by his son;

Edward Gerald (Jerry) Swanson was born in Ferndale in 1916. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 28, 2020.

Jerry graduated from Ferndale High School and the University of Washington. He married Regina (Gene) Matz, also of Ferndale. Jerry and Gene moved to Seattle where they raised their three children: Ann, Rick, and Doug. Jerry worked for Boeing for nearly 30 years, then left Boeing to start his own cabinet business from which he retired.

Jerry loved the outdoors and was quite an adventurous guy. He had one of the original Indian motorcycles in the 1930s which he rode from Ferndale to Seattle while at UW, and rode the rails to Chicago during the Depression, among other adventures.

He took his 24 foot boat "Dogpatch" twice to Alaska from Blaine with different family members along. He fished for over 50 years on his boat off the coast of Vancouver Island, sometimes for a month at a time, exploring remote sounds and bays, always chasing the Big One.

His family bought a cabin at Birch Bay in the 1920s which is still in the family today. Jerry spent every summer in his cabin at Birch Bay. At the age of 100, he was the Grand Marshal of the Birch Bay Discovery Days parade, receiving the designation of "Honorary Birch Bay Citizen".

Jerry lived a full and active life for over 103 years and we are all privileged to have had him with us for so long. He had a very strong spirit and passed that on to his children as well as his grandchildren.

We all have beautiful memories of this kind, gentle and wonderful man. We are lucky indeed that we had so many years with him.

He is survived by his three children and their spouses, seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. His wife Gene preceded him in death in December 1983.

His church was the outdoors and fishing was his religion. We know he is in heaven, with a fishing rod in his hand.



Washington Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 639

Mercer Island, WA 98040

www.wffc.com

August, 2020

Zoom Meeting



Please use this invite to attend our August meeting. Hope to see everyone there!

Neal Hoffberg is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Neal Hoffberg's Zoom Meeting

Time: Aug 18, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting. Type into your browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/91822482999?pwd=Z0h-kL2lzVTdsUkNLOFJzZ2IyZVdXZz09>

Meeting ID: 918 2248 2999

Passcode: 850769

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