

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXX No. 10

November, 2020

President's Riffle

It is hard to believe that it is already November and we will be voting via e-ballot to elect Board Members and Trustees for 2021 and that in December we hold our first ever "virtual" Holiday Fundraiser. We will all miss our much-enjoyed November dinner meeting and our always festive Christmas Dinner.

At last month's Board Meeting we discussed how best to keep our Membership engaged remotely during the pandemic. This month's Board Meeting is focused on Membership retention during the State of Washington's phased restrictions due Covid-19. Given the outlook for next year, the Board has voted to reduce next year's Active and Associate members annual dues to \$40 and to continue to invest in "top notch" zoom fly fishing and conservation speakers to retain and engage the membership in 2021.

This December we will be holding a virtual silent auction fundraiser using the Greater Giving web-based application. Lily Cutler has put together an extensive and interesting set of auction items for us to bid on. These include: Fishing Gear, Trips, Artwork, Homestays, Fly Plates, Fly Boxes, Wine and a variety of other great items. You will receive a list of auction items and information on how to register and bid later this month. The virtual auction will be opened to all members and you are encouraged to invite friends and family to join in the bidding!

This month's November 17th Zoom meeting speak-



er is Skip Morris who will present to us how to fish lakes with dry flies. Skip is well-known as an entertaining, concise, and knowledgeable presenter, with a sly sense of humor and an easygoing manner that draws in the audience. He has written twenty-one books on fly fishing and tying, including the established standard beginning fly tier's volume *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*. Other books include: *The Art of Tying the Bass Fly*, *Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes* (with lake-fishing guru Brian Chan), *Concise Handbook of Fly Tying*, and *Fly Fisher's Guide to Western River Hatches*. Skip will also do a fly tying demonstration for us during his zoom presentation. I hope that you will join us to learn more on how to fish dry flies from this expert presenter.

I hope to see you at the November 17th meeting, plan to join in at 6:30 PM for the "chat-along wet fly" to swap fishing reports and enjoy the comradery. The presentation will start at 7 PM.

Stay Safe and Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart WFFC President

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and Schorsch Hook Up

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Fishing Report

Fishing near Chelan

by Chuck Ballard

Last week Ron Tschder our former Creel Notes editor and I returned to Big Twin lake for a last trip of the year.

It was very cold (30F) when we arrived, but warmed to 63F by days end. We were on the water by 9:30AM and it looked like it was too late in the season for a good day.

Well that soon changed all for the better. Ron joined one other fly fisher at the west end of the lake who told him to fish very close to the shore with a dry line. The pattern Ron used was a leech that was very good for much of the morning.

I made the mistake of rowing around the entire lake and only

managed three hard to find fish on my Ruby Rat pattern.

As I came back to check on Ron he informed me he had caught (9) 18" to 20" rainbows!

So just before I changed over to a dry line I noticed a water boatman hit the surface and swim down toward the bottom. I mentioned this



to Ron who decided to switch to this pattern as it had slowed down for him.

This turned out to be a "great fly". We both began catching a fish almost every other cast and most were over 18".

This lake has a tendency to winterkill however with the aerator it survived well last year. So hopefully by spring fishing will still be great!



Fishing Reports continue on page 4

Creel Notes

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SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

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Big Twin, above, on a lovely winter's day. Left, Ron Tschder gets a rod bender as photographed by Chuck Ballard.

Correction: Last issue the Walker Bay, left, as attributed to the wrong angler and belongs to Ron. Dick Brenning thanked me for gifting him the boat. Sorry Dick.

Meeting

Our monthly dinner meeting will feature guest speaker, Skip Morris. Please join us for this very special event. Skip's presentation will be about dry fly fishing in lakes.

Skip Morris is among the most prolific fly-fishing and fly-tying authors alive—his name is known to anglers around the world as a noted fly fishing author and speaker.

He has written twenty-one books on fly fishing and tying, including the established standard beginning fly tier's volume *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*, and *The Art of Tying the Bass Fly*, Morris & Chan on *Fly Fishing Trout Lakes* (with lake-fishing guru Brian Chan), *Concise Handbook of Fly Tying*, and *Fly Fisher's Guide to Western River Hatches*.

His videos and DVD's range from instruction for tying nymphs, to tying bass flies, to tying and fishing flies for sea-run cutthroat trout.

Skip has published over 300 articles on fly fishing and tying in magazines from *Fly Fisherman* to *American Angler*. For three years he was among the hosts of the "Fly-Fish Television Magazine" show.

As a speaker and clinician, Skip is well-known as an entertaining, concise, and knowledgeable presenter, with a sly sense of humor and an easygoing manner that draws in the audience.

Skip will also do a fly tying demonstration for us during his zoom presentation.

Neal Hoffberg is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Neal Hoffberg's Zoom Meeting

Time: Nov 17, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98311917175?pwd=MU9zN2dvMXE1NCsrEQ2W-GVhTFdBTQ09>

In Passing

Preston Singletary, longtime member, passes.

Preston Singletary passed on November 4th after a long battle with cancer.

He was a club member for many years who was an expert fly fisher and fly tier. He recently provided the club with an incredible slide show on searun cutthroat fishing which was his specialty.

Preston was also very well educated in entomology and served as the new equipment editor for *Flyfishing and Flytying Journal* magazine for many years.

I met Preston at The Boeing Company in 1965 where he was a wing design specialist.

Many of our members fished with Preston both here in Washington and also in Alaska.

He was a regular at the Chopaka outings and this was his favorite lake.

Preston, although very quiet as a person, was someone everyone liked knowing, especially for sharing his detailed knowledge of flies and how to tie them.

Preston will be missed by so many who benefited from his keen mind and caring personality.

Preston Jr. mentioned they plan on holding a celebration of life sometime early next year possibly near his February birthday.

By Chuck Ballard

Last River Crossing for Dr. Dick Levinthal

Dick Levinthal passed away peacefully under the care of wife Carol on Saturday, October 31 at Issaquah Swedish Hospital. Carol had been his principal caretaker for the better part of three years as he experienced increasing health problems.

Dick joined the WFFC in 1984, sponsored by Doctor's Jim Hanson

(deceased, 2019) and Hugh Clark. He was a regular attendee of club meetings until recently, and an active steelheader in earlier years making numerous trips to the Olympic Peninsula as well as more local waters. More recently he was one of the regulars at the Chopaka and Dry Falls outings shared with Carol in their travel trailer, that now still resides with Ron Mazurek over in ID.

Dick was known as a man of gentle demeanor, and very deliberate in his preparations for any fishing event. Carol would frequently treat other wives on their trips to a thoughtfully prepared luncheon while the guys were out doing their thing.

Carol is planning a gathering of celebration at the STC in the summer of 2021, assuming the CV is sufficiently subdued by then. Dick has a large estate of fishing memorabilia which will first be offered to family. Carol indicated the remainder will be offered to the WFFC.

Dick was a dedicated member of our club and I treasure the memories and time I was able to spend with him.

By Pete Baird

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

Schorsch & Rocco Hook Up

Thank god for Saturdays! As a person still “enslaved to the system”, my angling endeavors are often limited to the weekends. Battling the madding hordes, the power baiters, the weekend warriors, and now the covid fleeing apodment dwellers of the big city, can make quality angling sparse... So I am pleased to report that some good fishing experiences can still happen.

Oct. 17, 2020

I hit the 7:00 Edmonds ferry and drive another half hour to Gibbs lake in Jefferson county. Pack the jonboat 50 yards to the lake, and have a great day! Weatherman drops it in the dirt again, a beautiful fall day, trout rising! Sink tip line and a marabou leech are all that is needed to put more than two dozen trout in the net in about 4 hours. Some really big holdover rainbows (18 plus!) joined a bunch of 14 inchers and a handful of cutthroat to fill out the day. Packed up early, and managed to hit the Kingston ferry while it was still on schedule, a rarity indeed! Great day.

Oct 24, 2020

Flush with success from last Saturday, I decide to check out a “new to me” lake. Island lake in Kitsap county near Silverdale. The WDFW website reported recent stocking with jumbo rainbows, and possible resident cutthroat. Satellite images looked good. Headed out early for another great day. My first suspicion that something might

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Hood Canal Coho give the rod a good bend and lend promise to the smoker.

be wrong, was driving through the Silverdale mall to get there. Eventually I passed something called “retention pond park”. When I got to it, among endless housing projects, all there was was a storm water retention pond surrounded by a parking lot. No shit. Undaunted, I continued to my goal. I found Island lake in a low area among the houses, with a nice community park on one side, and an old resort on the other. Lots of lilly pad beds all around, and pretty good water quality.

The usual exploring gear, slow sink, bead head halebopp olive leach, and miles of casting and retrieving produced three bass about as big as my finger. No sign of the 900 or so jumbo rainbows. A couple fat eagles and an osprey watched intently. Four other boats and several bank anglers at the park dock confirmed my suspicions. No trout. A couple hours later, I headed for home. Not skunked, but troutless.

Oct 31, 2020

A call from our friend Rocco Maccarrone got the next Saturday of fishing arranged. We met at the Latimers Landing boat launch near Hartstein Island, and headed into the fog for a day on the way south sound. After wandering around in cotton candy fog, we worked our way up the west side of Pickering passage, into a corner cove. While casting for a half hour or so, we heard “slurping “ noises behind us and turned to see a group of big ocean coho gulping along the surface behind the boat! Several good casts later, they were gone. We worked up to a favorite point on the west side of Squaxin island, only to find a “guide” with three clients flailing away on our spot. Hey, it’s the new Seattle!

On we went to Hammersley inlet to look for chums. Halfway there, the guide boat came roaring out of the fog to pass us, jumping ahead to get “first water”. Low class. We arrived at the mouth of Mill creek, and joined three or four other boats

there. Large groups of chum were cruising all over the lagoon. With the right cast, it was hard not to foul hook them. We hooked up a couple times, with Rocco landing a really strong buck, with huge teeth. We sacked one bright fish for the smoker, and went looking for cutthroat. A mile east, we fished a bar for cutts and had lunch. Several hookups and a few landed. After the tide change, we headed back to Squaxin for more cutts. No cutts, only coho. We caught four nice little resident coho that fought like crazy! Another hundred casts, and we called it a day. Good fishing and great company. Not bad!

Nov. 7, 2020

The last Saturday report is Hood canal. Fishing from shore at Eagle creek north of Lilliwaup. Only a few chum in the creek, and none showing on the oyster flats. A few bright fish jumping and pushing water where they shouldn't have been, piqued interest. Wading SLOWLY, QUIETLY, and SHUFFLING YOUR FEET is the rule here! When I did finally cast over 12 inches of water, I spooked a whole bunch of bright coho! A fat cutthroat hit the Gary Bergquist candlefish fly right away. The 6 pound coho took a little longer. Many spooked fish and a few "chinese firedrill" fights later, I gave it up. Another great day where I was glad I ignored the weatherman. On the way home, I passed the combat fishery at Hoodspout hatchery, and hoped none of those fools drive north a few miles. Chum fishing can be good here through early December.

That's my report. Tight lines!
Dave Schorsch

Christmas Fundraiser Goes Virtual with Scores of Donated Items

On-line Bidding Opens December 13, Closes the 19th

This year's virtual fundraiser and auction will go live on Sunday, December 13 at 12:00 pm noon, and bidding will close at noon on Saturday, December 19, 2020. Register to bid and donate by accessing this link: wffc.ggo.bid – then click on "Get Started" and enter your personal details and contact info. We may have already added you, in which case you can fill in your credit card information and anything else we missed. When you register, make sure to click on the dollar sign icon to enter your credit card information. Once entered, the number will be encrypted. If you prefer to pay by check, let us know by emailing lilyannacutler@gmail.com.

This fundraiser is for our club members and their guests. Invite your sweetheart, friends, family, and prospective members to participate in the bidding by sharing the link with them: wffc.ggo.bid

Week Long Happy Hour!

Happy hour starts whenever the heck you like! The best part? NO DRESS CODE! Cozy up in your comfiest pajamas, grab a festive cocktail, and get to bidding and donating. Luckily for us, we've collected loads of donations including artwork, professional photo prints by Dave McCoy, plenty of rods and reels, landing nets from Fisknat, spirits from Dry Fly Distillery, gear from Patagonia and Loon Out-



doors, and much more. We even have great gifts for the fly fisher in your life so you can even get some last-minute holiday shopping done.

Auction Live for a Week

With a whole week to bid on items, this live online auction will be exciting to watch -- so get in there! The health and survival of our club depends on you, and since this online event is free to "attend" you don't have to pay for admission. Let's all get into the holiday spirit (and holiday spirits), open our wallets, and help the WFFC thrive. Happy holidays to all!

-Lily Cutler, 3rd VP

Type wffc.ggo.bid into your favorite browser, get out your credit card information and bid away in your PJs

Featured Fly: The Bird's Nest



Thread: Gray (color to match hatch)

Nymph hook #12 or #14;

Thread: 70 denier / olive, light brown, tan

Abdomen: Natural colored dubbing. (Orig. calls for Native Australian Possum. You do not need this. You may substitute).

Rib: Fine Copper wire;

Tail: Lemon wood duck or substitute;

Hackle: Lemon wood duck or substitute:

Thorax: Hairs ear or substitute



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November, 2020

Meetings have been temporarily cancelled in person at the Seattle Tennis Club, but club life goes on with new members joining, zoom meetings, fly-tying webinars, board meetings, and regular updates to the club web pages.

- Keep in touch at <https://wffc.com/>
- Send your thoughts and fishing reports to davidehrich@rocketmail.com for the next issue of Creel Notes. Please include a photo (.jpeg preferred) with your article.