

# Creel Notes from the



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

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

Member of



MMXXI No. 2

February, 2021

## President's Riffle

Have you got your vaccination shot yet? Being in the B1 age group, I have had my first shot and will get my second shot later this month. Hopefully all of you will be able to receive your shot(s) by the end of this summer so we may be able to get together once again to go "fishing" in the Fall and hold the Christmas Holiday Fundraiser in December.

At the February 2nd Board Meeting, the proposed 2021 WFFC Revenue and Expenses Budget was presented and approved by the Board. It will be presented to the membership for approval or rejection by an emailed ballot at the end of this month, per the WFFC Bylaws requirements.

To view the proposed 2020 WFFC Revenue and Expenses Budget, log into the Members Only [wffc.com](http://wffc.com) website, click on the BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS pictured tile, then scroll down the page to the MOST RECENT WFFC FINANCIAL section and then click on "February" within the 2021 WFFC FINANCIALS ARCHIVE.

Please read over the 2021 Budget Assumptions that the Board agreed upon for establishing this year's Budget. The budget is greatly impacted by the COVID-19 WA group gathering restriction. Our hope is that we will be able to hold in person events during the latter part of this year.

All Active and Senior WFFC Members will receive e-ballot, in the last week of February, to vote on the



## 2021 WFFC Budget.

What to go fishing? Dave Schorsch will begin publishing a monthly "Do-it-Yourself" Outing recommendation until we can start holding Club Outings once again. His first DIY fishing opportunities overview is included in this Creel Notes edition [pages 4 & 5] and it is terrific!

I hope to see you all at the February 16th Zoom Monthly Meeting. At that meeting I will give a short report on what the outlook for the club to resume in person Dinner Meetings, Outings and Education Classes this year. Following the business part of our meeting, David Williams will be the zoom meeting's speaker and will talk to us about the where and how to catch bass in Eastern Washington.

Don't forget to pay your 2021 WFFC Dues, they are only \$40 this year!

Stay Safe, get your vaccine shot and Tight Lines -  
Jim Goedhart WFFC President

## Inside this Issue

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# Fishing Report

## Getting Ready for Spring

Now that everyone is over the election and are tired of Covid news ,lets focus on the spring fishing season.

What should one do to get ready? I usually start by understanding that fishing will start off slowly because of cold water temperatures. Therefore the method to have any early success is finding the warmer water. There are many search methods but a thermometer is a good start . Now look for water in the warmest areas. The next approach would be to fish very deep and slowly as the fish are usually on the bottom for much of early spring. The selection of flies is simple as chironomids flies in either the bloodworm or pupa form are a good choice. Next is a woolly-bugger or leech pattern again fished deep and “ slow” . Remember insects aren’t fast movers either.

As spring time progresses a lake will turn over . This is where the

very cold upper surface water will sink and upwell the warmer bottom water. When this occurs you may start to see rising fish more often and you need to revert to upper water levels but not necessarily the surface.

As far as equipment goes you will need a full sink line for deep trolling and a dry line with a long leader to fish chironomids.

Check out your supply of patterns and consider some new ones like the “boobie” or even a “ mop fly” these are described in youtube videos .

One additional thing you need to do always is sharpen your hook points. Often the “take “in cold water is very subtle so a sharp hook can make a big difference in catching rate.

One last bit of advice is “ always “ wear a life jacket ! Cold water is a killer and the shock of going overboard will cause you to gasp, ingesting water.

This is a quick overview but a little research into other sources will enhance your knowledge.

Chuck Ballard

## Conservation Angler Shares Agenda

January 2021 was hectic! The Conservation Angler hit the ground ready to go.

- Testimony helped send poorly formed Oregon regulations for non-native game fish management back to the drawing board.

- Joined with allies before the Washington Legislature in support of critical conservation angling regulations protecting Olympic Peninsula wild steelhead, pushing back against unsupported allegations against WDFW staff.

- Evaluated emerging natural resource proposals and agency budgets, sharing our findings with Oregon legislative committees and other advocates.

- Urged the OR Fish & Wildlife Commission to consider a broader evaluation of hatchery facilities and operations in watersheds affected by September wildfires on the Santiam, McKenzie and North Umpqua Rivers.

- Asked the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt ther-

# Creel Notes

IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB.  
SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

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mal angling sanctuaries to protect wild steelhead and salmon using cold water refugia along the Columbia at select Washington rivers.

Thank you for your support!  
Pete Soverel, David Moskowitz and Sarah Lonigro

# On the Fly

## Going Virtual

by David Ehrich

January 19, 2021



Lo and behold, I attended my first virtual WFFC meeting. Perhaps you too have been reticent, over zoomed, or just plain shy. But, take my word; it ain't bad.

The meeting started with warm greetings, shared humor, and a few faces I haven't seen in some time. Taking us to task, President Goedhart, reviewed a very successful and optimistic budget. One advantage of sitting at home tying flies instead of going to meetings and outings is we save money. We also shared in making this Christmas fundraiser a great success behind the great efforts of Lily Cutler, who took home a small present from the club for her efforts. All told, the budget is solid, dues have been reduced for now, and the club is looking for ways to support the fly-fishing community.

Bill O'Neal chaired an unusual Awards Night. As far as I could tell, I was the only one who showed up in the mandatory formal attire. I won't tell you what I had on below the screen, but I did don the "mandatory" formal wear.

In a season with constraints galore, the club recognized a few people who had made things happen in 2020.

Bill Neal notes, "The only "standard" award for the year 2020 was the Boyd Aigner Flytying Competition, the winner being Chuck Ballard.

"At last month's meeting we recognized Jim Goedhart, Neal Hoffberg, David Ehrich, Lily Cutler, Dick Brening, and Chuck Ballard for outstanding service in guiding the Club and keeping the Members engaged during the covid-19 pandemic."

Our speakers tonight included Sarah Cloud, ExO of the Deschutes River Alliance and President, Greg McMillan. Greg titled his presentation "Cooler, Cleaner H2O" or their goal for the Deschutes River system.

Greg started with the science after a brief introduction from Sarah. What used to be on the Lower Deschutes: a vigorous salmon fly hatch, clear water, a variety of year-round hatches, clean rocks holding larvae. What is now: algae growth on rocks, murky waters, and golden-brown slime from nuisance algae choking nymphs. In other words, near total collapse.

The culprit? The usual; the damn Round Butte dam. Closing off the wild water of the warm Crooked and cold Metolius rivers, engineers built a tower to take fish down the dam, inadvertently taking the warm, dam heated water off the top, while the healthy cold water of the mountain born Metolius river sits at the bottom of the lake.

All of us know the dangers of rising water temperatures to our favorite game fish, but few imagined the total collapse brought on by algae choked waters.

Unlike similar crisis around the salmon rivers of the NW, there is a simple solution; bottom draw to meet their goal of cold, cleaner water.

Lively and intelligent questions, as per usual, ensued, but with the Zoom advantage that everyone has to listen, or at least pretend to

listen except for dogs barking in the background. Greg helped us get once again to that place where science, and experience, history come into confluence, in other words, the WFFC. Global thinkers asked what can we do to help?

Donnations. More pragmatic anglers wanted to know, where can we fish now? Fish the pockets after riffles, mid-day with emergers.

## WFFC Fly Tiers

Hopefully the covid-19 thing is winding down, but we still have idle hands. To keep them occupied, I can think of nothing better than tying flies.

So, the 2021 **Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition** is underway.

Here are the patterns:

UV resin gammarus shrimp, size 8

Flying carpenter ant, size 12

Royal humpy, size 12

Flies will be due at the time of the April 20th Members' Zoom

Continued on Page 5

### 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.



## DYI Outings

An installment on the requested monthly “do it yourself” fly fishing here in the northwest. I will try to do time appropriate suggestions, while not too specifically “hot spotting” specific, sometimes sensitive, fisheries.

Yep. Here it is. February. Cold, wet, windy. You have been trapped indoors, both by covid and the season. What to do with that fly rod in the closet, and the waders beside it? Simple answer, go fishing.

The late winter and early spring have evolved into one of my favorite times on the water. Options include desert streams, tidal estuaries, and lakes successfully managed as winter quality waters. Big rivers may be an option for those diehards that want to swing a spey fly for late running native steelhead, but some of us would rather catch something.

The first thing to take into account is the reality of the weather. For winter fishing in our local quality waters lakes, that means having some comparatively stable weather for a few days so the lake can settle down into layers, and the fish can go back to acting normal instead of riding out windblown mixing and inches of cold rainwater running in.

Lakes managed for winter fishing around here include Lost (mason county), Nahwatzel near Shelton, Gibb and Leland (Jefferson county) and many more. All the lakes managed in this way get late season and early season plants, as well as having outstanding

growth rates of fish that are already there. Some have catch and release regs, like Munn, Gibb, and Cady, others have general regulations, but produce really well. Nahwatzel, for instance produces some really big fish. An easy way to find these lakes and more, is the wdfw website. Go to fishing, then stocking reports, then run through the list. Cross check with the regs, to avoid the inevitable madhouse at the put and take spots.

You will need a floating vessel or device, float tube, boat, pontoon, to fish a lake. Period. This time of year, a full sink line and fairly buggy, “swimmy” flies like woolley buggers, lake damsels, and mohair leeches work great. Once in a while, on a sunny day, you might get a chironomid “buzzer” hatch, usually over deep water, so bring a dry line rigged rod for standby. This is the time of year that I get the biggest fish, with the least competition.

For those of you who just don’t like fishing in the rain, ( me sometimes) you can head east. Just remember the statement above about weather! Sunny and cold is the rule! For the lakes that are open year round and the Columbia Wildlife refuge lakes that open March 1, remember that open does not mean unfrozen! That’s a long way to drive (and hike) to find a sage brush ice rink. That being said, many of those little lakes are fishable from shore with waders, and right after the ice breaks up can be gangbusters fishing! Check out Quail lake, and the dozens of ponds in that area. Google is a great tool. Another sleeper for after the ice is out is Homestead Lake north of Moses Lake. About a mile walk in,

and adjacent to Crab creek, spring browns are to be had.

For the stream fisher who isn’t afraid of some exploration, the wasteways of the Columbia basin provide open, fairly warm water! There are literally miles of spring creek type streambank to hike along, with trout hiding in some of the more fishy looking spots. Again, google earth is your friend. Frenchman hills wasteway looks like a montana creek in places, and harbors some ridiculously huge trout, although they can be far between. I don’t think I’ve met any of the big browns yet (up close) but three pound rainbows are a daily occurrence. Some are much bigger! This is ground water from seasonal irrigation, so the early spring is when the wasteways are low, and the shorelines passable. Later, after April, they turn into huge trout growing swamps, and the fish are safe until next winter. Bring your big trout streamers! We’ve had luck with Dali Lamas, gold bead buggers, and clousers. Occasionally I see a fish sipping tiny bugs under a bush. Spooky is the word for these guys, so dry fly guys bring your “A game”. PS good hiking wading shoes a plus.

For the salt; a lot of the fish we normally chase are overwintering in the streams. Immature (non spawning) cutthroat are around the rocky shorelines, and feeder coho can be fun when you get into them. A dry line and long leader ending in a bright attractor fly is my choice. My favorite is a bright orange (almost yellow) body, hackle, and tail, with an arctic fox white wing topped with a few strands of chrome flashabou. As for where to go, I have some actual good

advice... Skip where the fly shop tells you to go (along with the other twelve dozen guys fishing Olalla beach) and check out a resource I've found for beach exploration. Don't tell the "guide community" but on the wdfw website, under shellfishing is a list of maps of public oyster and clam digging beaches. All excellent cutthroat spots, as they are undeveloped, and lack the super destructive "aquaculture" crap management seen all over the sound now. The maps show where the access is, and the boundaries of public land. You might find your new favorite spot! Don't forget to look for beaches with small streams nearby.

Well, there's my early spring list of places to hide out, and maybe catch a fish. Good luck and tight lines!

Dave Schorsch

## Marlon Rampy will Headline Next Month's Meeting

Some of the largest trout in the mainland 48 states are quietly swimming, finning and eating in the spring-fed rivers and lakes of southern Oregon's Klamath Basin. Our April presenter, Marlon Rampy, will show us all about this fantastic fly fishing playground.

Marlon's presentation will be a multi-media composition with plenty of photos, sound, scenery, music and yes, even some lovely fish. He will take us on a detailed journey thru the Southern Oregon's premier fly angling opportunities.

Since its inception in 1995, Marlon's guide business, Wildwest Fly Fishing, has steadily gained a dedicated following as a quality fly fishing experience. Marlon Rampy is a full time Guide in Oregon's Klamath Basin.

His passion for photography and guiding the Basin since 1995, has lead him to many wonderful photo ops. His photography has been published in

Northwest Fly Fishing, the Drake and CATCH Magazine.

Marlon is the head guide at the Lonesome Duck Lodge on the banks of the Williamson River. To see more of his images visit his website: [www.flyfishoregon.com](http://www.flyfishoregon.com)

### On The Fly continued

meeting. If reasonably possible, we will have judging done by the members. Or if not, we will adjust accordingly, similar to what was done for 2020 with the judging done by a group of WFFC members.

I encourage you all to participate. Please contact me, and I will assign a participation number to you. We will have to work out the distribution of display boxes and the submittal of flies as things evolve.

Thanks, Bill Neal  
(c) 206.245.3614;  
[bill.neal.0517@gmail.com](mailto:bill.neal.0517@gmail.com)

# Oregon Senator Wyden Seeks River Protection

We want to share some exciting news: today, Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon introduced legislation that is the biggest Wild and Scenic River bill in history.

Senator Wyden's River Democracy Act of 2021 would protect 4,702 miles of rivers and streams in Oregon – to safeguard sources of clean drinking water, boost the state's outdoor economy, and improve recreation opportunities.

A federal Wild and Scenic River designation protects a river from dams and other harmful development, safeguarding the river's values today, and for future generations. Senator Wyden crafted the legislation after an extensive public process resulting in 15,000 nominations from Oregonians. Senator Wyden received a tremendous amount of feedback from tribes, community members, businesses, anglers, boaters and members of the public.

If the bill becomes law, Oregon will not only have the most Wild and Scenic designations in the U.S.,

but will beat Alaska as the state with the most Wild and Scenic River miles.

Celebrate Senator Wyden's commitment and thank him for going big for rivers! Click to tweet your support.

Here at American Rivers, we're working hard to safeguard our last healthy, free-flowing rivers nationwide -- and thanks to supporters like you, we're making great progress. In recent months, Senator Tester introduced the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act that would protect more than 300 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers. And Senators Heinrich and Udall introduced legislation to protect over 400 miles of the Gila, New Mexico's last free-flowing river.

Your support is vital to protecting our nation's last, wild rivers. Thank you for standing with us!

For the rivers,  
David Moryc

Senior Director, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Public Lands Policy



# Club History

[Editor's Note] Jim Klosterman fulfilled a pledge to his wife to clean out some old files. Here he offers up some of the gems of memory and lens from days gone by.

## Chapter One: The Old Days



This photo of Enos Brader, the first president of the WFFC, standing on top of the picnic table appears to be from the 1950's. Enos, like Dawn Holbook in a previous photo I sent to you earlier, is one of the original 8 founding members of the WFFC. Do not know who the other gentleman is but perhaps a very senior member of our club might recognize him.

Enos was the outdoor editor for the Seattle Times for over 25 years and created several classic fly patterns still in usage today. Enos passed away in 1984 at the age of 91. Besides being an avid fly fisherman, particularly in the Stilly, was also an avid hunter. I had the privilege of bird hunting as a young adult.

The second photo, titled "Stuck Jeep", is my father Elliot Klosterman who joined the WFFC in 1941. In this photo he is the shirt-



Photo Left: Enos Bradner and unknown companions. Photo Top: Elliot Klosterman makes the best of a bad situation in this 1954 photo.

less one with a big grin. The photo of the 1954 Willys Wagon is from the late 1950's. However, I do not know if this was on a club outing or who the other gentleman is. Knowing my father he was probably trying to be the first individual to drive a vehicle to some lake tucked back in the woods with no real road to it.

## Chapter Two: Elliot Klosterman

I am an associate member over in the Spokane area but had the good fortune as a youth and eventually an adult fly fishing with my father Elliot. My father was one of the earlier members of the club joining I believe in 1941 until his passing in 2002. I joined in the later 1980's and had the good fortune of having Andy Hall and Gil Nyerges as my sponsors. That would mean a Klosterman has been a member coming up on 80 years.

I came across these few of the annual WFFC outing at Pass Lake in the mid 1980's. I loved the camaraderie of this outing and a special treat was the outstanding tempura created by Ken Jarvis. Ken

has been gone for many years now but if there was a nicer fellow than Ken I haven't run into him. I first started attending this outing in the mid 1960's and I believe it may have started 15-20 years before that. Attached are four scanned photos with the first from the 1983 Pass Lake outing and the next three from the 1986 outing.



In the first photo the three chowhounds are Bruce Clingan, Lynn Gross and Ron Dion. The name of the chef escapes me. The following three attached photos are from the 1986 outing and many of the long time members will recognize faces belonging to Gordy Young, Andy Hall, Boyd Aigner, Elliot Klosterman, Chuck Ballard, Ron Pera and Jim Poor. Oh yes, several editions of "Old What's His Name?"



Another aspect of WFFC club lore are the fires in the next two photos. These are undoubtedly the handiwork of past member Fred





DeWitt as he was club curator of what was known as a "Grate Bender". Building a fire under the normal fire grate was much too limiting in size so you started heaping additional firewood on top of the grate. The goal was to build it hot enough to soften the metal after several hours and with the weight of the logs on top of the grate it would eventually be bent downward. The trick was getting close enough to the fire to strategically place additional logs without getting singed.

### Chapter Three: Ancient Leaves

In going through boxes of old photos I came across this 1973 publication assembled by the WFFC. I undoubtedly absconded with it from my late father Elliot. This is a real gem and includes both recommendations and analysis of lakes and rivers of Washington State. There is also a page recommending staple fly patterns to be used in these waters. The authors of these writeups include WFFC stalwarts such as Steve Raymond, Gil Nyerges, Andy Hall, Ralph Wahl, John Callahan, Al Pratt, Don Minden and Ed Foss. These are certainly storied names in the clubs history and longer term members will have no problem remembering them.

The cover art of this publication is without question the artwork of Al Pratt. Older members will recognize this at once. Al passed away just over 25 years ago but his zany cartoons appeared in the Seattle Times for 40 years prior to his passing in 1994. Again, "seasoned" members of the club will remember his publication entitled "Wretched Mess" which can only be described as the work of a genius in a seriously offbeat fashion. Mr. Pratt was also the creative force behind the

club's Goofus Award which when presented to some unsuspecting victim at a club meeting had us rolling in the aisle. His contraptions representing the Goofus Award were indeed of genius creation.

Attached is a scanned PDF of 14 pages and a second one of just one page. Let's just say I had technical difficulties and did not want to start over again after scanning the first 14 pages.

Respectfully,  
Jim Klosterman



## Featured Fly

February 17

### Featured Fly: Callibaetis Biot Partridge Spinner



Good evening, tyers

Our next Forum will be February 17th. We will tie Rene Harrop's Callibaetis Biot Partridge Spinner. The ZOOM link is below. The recipe is as follows:

Hook: TMC 100BL size 14-18 or equal. I will use a #16.

Thread: Tan 70 Denier

Tail: Coq de Leon, ginger color or similar.

Abdomen: Callibaetis goose biot (you may sub with turkey biots).

Thorax: Callibaetis dry fly dubbing.

Wings: Paired gray partridge feathers.

As always, write me if you have any questions.

Neal Hoffberg is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting on Feb 17, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98916998003?pwd=OVZnbit2Mld-TamNsS2F6ZVJkUk1TUT09>

Meeting ID: 989 1699 8003

Passcode: 417072



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## February, 2021

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.

### Our Next Virtual Meeting Will Feature Marlon Rampy



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