

WFFC

Creel Notes

December 10, 2021

President's Riffle

Holiday Dinner

We are going to close out the year with a “roar” holding the WFFC virtual Fundraiser December 9th through 14th and the Holiday Dinner at the Seattle Tennis Club on December 14th. I hope that you will join us in these two festivities as they are the primary fundraisers for the Club's 2022 Out Reach, Conservation, Outings, Education and Youth activities and need your support to make them a success next year.

The Board voted at the December 7th Board Meeting that the Active and Associate 2022 Membership Dues be \$50. You may start paying your 2022 dues now on the “members only” side of wffc.com website by clicking on the “MEMBER DUES” pictured tile.

At the November 16th Dinner Meeting, the following members were voted in to be Officers in 2022:

- President: Dave Spratt
- 1st VP Membership Danferd Hanke
- Treasurer Kirk Peterson
- 1st Ghillie Shelley Scheff
- 2nd Ghillie James Emswiler
- 1st Year Trustee Pat Becker
- 1st Year Trustee Jay Deeds

The following 2021 Officers will continue in their positions in 2022:

- 2nd VP Programs Neal Hoffberg
- Secretary Deborah Katz
- 2nd Year Trustee Tom Nue
- 2nd Year Trustee Gary Bergquist

- 3rd Year Trustee Greg Crumbaker

- 3rd Year Trustee Dick Brening

I will continue to be on the Board in the “Past President” position.

I want to thank 1st VP Membership Dexter Brown, 3rd VP Lily Cutler, 1st Ghillie Marcia Kindinger, 2nd Ghillie Ben Porter, 3rd Year Trustee Jim Young and 3rd Year Trustee John Narver, along with the above continuing Officers, for all of their great help, support and guidance during my tenure as President over the last 3 years.

It has been my honor to be the President of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and I look forward to supporting Dave Spratt who will be the President in 2022.

Tight Lines

Jim Goedhart

On the Fly

By David Ehrich

November 16, 2021

At the meeting....yeah, you heard me right, at the meeting, at the Seattle Tennis Club, at a table, with my friends, with dinner in front of me; a real meeting; amazing and long overdue.

A few moments of note:

- The members stood in admiration of the job that Jim Goedhart, in the waning days of his presidency, has done over the last several years, lately under great duress.
- Dexter Brown, along with the esteemed and much loved Pete Baird, inducted twelve new members. They received the usual ordination from Father Pete.
- We sat with new member Geoff Bright who weathered the snarky comments of veteran members and decided to stay through the meeting anyway.

On to beeswax, Kris Kristofferson introduced our returning and new leadership. Of note, David Spratt will take the reigns of power as president. The slate received unanimous approval.

As if that piece of business wasn't enough, Bill Neal, awards chairman, revealed the winners of the Boyd Aigner competition. See above for compete results. The grand winners ended in a tie between David Hard and Tom Neu, who acknowledged tutelage by Walt Swanson and Chuck Ballard.

Next, we wrapped the moment with a toast to the new leaders, those who have served, new members, winners, and all of us who have stuck through the long year and some we will forever know as Covid Times.

From there, the meeting devolved into "fishing reports" earning the scare quotes due to the excess in details of things not related to the act of getting fish to meet presented fly. You can only imagine 20 months of stories reserved. In short; elk in camp gnawing on corks, 20 mph wind whipped flies on the Yak; planted jumbo rainbow melding with resident Cutts on Ballinger Lakes; a plug for lake Hannan and a future spring outing; big salmon on the Pierre Marquette; lake fishing in Alaska

Both guided trips offered at last year's auction received high praise. Last year's winners have reserved the right to win these auctions again.

From there, Lilly Cutler, briefed us about the high lights of the Holiday fundraiser including same such trips to Alaska, etc. Look out for her emails goading you to register for the on-line auction. The regular meeting will feature the famous raffle (13 tables and wrinkled tickets), paddles raised, live auction, and good food and good times on December 14th. In terms of Christmas fun, the club has you covered.

Members enjoyed the break catching up, telling the usual lies, and meeting new members. It was hard to shut them up and return to the regularly scheduled program. Neal Hoffberg gave us highlights of good things to come and introduced us to our program: expert angler, world class photographer and videographer, Carol Ann Morris, who told us about "Sea Run Cutthroat, Phantom of the Olympic Peninsula."

First off, experts in the art of catching sea-runs, tend toward secrecy. Bucking that trend, Carol believes secrets have a way of dying with the holder, so for an idea to live, we must collaborate. In addition, the more people who know about something, the more people who believe in protecting the fishery. "In the end, we conserve only what we love."

The threats to this fishery include over fishing, especially from frustrated salmon anglers, loss of habitat, a lack of money to fund studies of sea-run due to the small numbers of food angling compared to the big money coastal salmon fishery, and finally, the life habits of sea-run cutthroat makes them vulnerable to over fishing.

In 1988 we moved to barbless hooks and catch-n-release. Ten years later, we started to see a return of good numbers. Native to the 4600 miles of shoreline of the Salish Sea, up to the Kenai, and down to

California. They are well adapted to brackish water, thus the Salish Sea and its many freshwater tributaries is a dynamic habitat.

Still, at the end of the day, catching sea-runs is the Phd. of fishing. Know this: ocean surface, food sources, and tide changes are keys. The fish like waning and waxing tides; water movement is key. They face into the current just like river trout, they like live action food. Her main points:

- 1) Fish near shore. They like little water.
- 2) Give a few casts and move on.
- 3) Visit the beach at low tide and take note of the structure.
- 4) Like river trout, they like to rest in between hunting expeditions.
- 5) Keep 'em wet, release them quickly.
- 6) Cast and Strip
- 7) Vary your retrieve,
- 8) Know the foods and change things until they work
- 9) If you can't see the bottom, it's too deep
- 10) Keep the rod tip down, minimize slack
- 11) Vary the beaches you fish
- 12) Even though they allow kill in certain places, resist!

Carol loves a medium action to fast action 6-weight rod to deliver large flies in wind, and a good stiff rod allows for easy and early release for Sea-runs and salmon by-catch. She likes a loop knot to help create natural action.

Next, some fly patterns. You know the drill about chum fry and eggs. Why not try clam necks, scuds, Polychaete Worms, and Myriad Shrimp? Color is not the most important thing, action is. Make the fly look alive. They like a good wake behind a moving fly. After that, she got deep in the weeds and I couldn't keep track of all the flies and good advice. In short, if river trout will eat it, so will sea-run. Look for terrestrials on the river and give it a shot.

Sea-runs are really the home-boys of fish. They like 50% salt and stay 5-10 miles from their natal stream. They visit the same beaches all the time. Big currents and open water scare them. They can change colors in 10-30 minutes, and they have adapted to various conditions.

Carol ended with this message; "find your passion and support it with action...it all helps."

For questions and more resources: www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com

Next we moved to questions. I'll spare you the ugly details. Virtual Skip showed up to join virtual Carol and talked about some of the flies on their vise; go to website to learn details.