

# Creel Notes from the



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

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

Member of



MMXXII No. 4

May 14, 2022

## President's Riffle

I hope everyone is well and getting a chance to get out and fish this month.



I look forward to hearing your fishing reports when we meet again on May 17th. Unfortunately, the April 30th outing at Lake Hannan was canceled at the very last minute due to roadwork restricting access to the lake. We will work with the Catholic Archdiocese on getting this outing rescheduled as soon as possible.

Last month we re-started our regular in-person monthly meetings at our new location at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall on Mercer Island. I am very excited about this new location and hope you all find the new venue an excellent facility for our club moving forward. Additionally, we are moving forward with plans to hold our annual Holiday Fundraiser in December at the hall, saving the club thousands of dollars on extra fees charged by the Seattle Tennis Club. If you have any feedback (pro or con) on our new location, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your input is vital as we continue growing our membership and strengthening the WFFC in 2022.

This month, I would like to call special attention to our club's website. The WFFC website is a fantastic site containing a wealth of information. One

of the ways we can make it even more powerful is to utilize the tools available such as the member's Forum. The Forum is available 24/7 to post fishing reports, find members to fish with, and create threads on fishing topics of interest. I hope to see more traffic on our WFFC forum pages from you all soon. Let's make this a powerful tool for the club!

I look forward to seeing everyone again in person at our May meeting. Please register for the May 17th dinner meeting, and I will see you all soon!

Tight Lines,  
David Spratt  
WFFC President

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# Fishing Reports

## Baldwin, Michigan, April 3-8th, 2022

Frustrated with the lack of steelhead opportunities here in the Northwest, I journeyed to Michigan to try out one of the most fabled steams in the nation, the Pere Marquette, having been intrigued by what I had read about the wild run of steelhead this essentially large spring creek gets that numbers between 10 and 30 thousand as they return from foraging largely on alewives in Lake Superior. Originally planted with rainbow fry in 1882 by lumber barons this 90 mile winding stream is self-sustaining and returns native runs of both large steelhead and large Chinook salmon while also containing resident German browns and rainbow trout. The Chinook run arrives in the river in late August and early September, while the steelhead returns begin in October and November peaking in March and early April. Divided roughly into an upper 1/3 that is reserved for spawning only, a middle third that is restricted to fly fishing only and a lower 1/3 that allows any variety of artificial gear, catch and release is mandated throughout. I chose to fish the fly fishing only stretch out of a guide boat and attempted to fish using a spey casting technique. Throughout the week the water temperature hovered around 42 (above 45 I was told was optimal). Intermittently, each day we were able to see 40 or 50 fish, however, the encroaching streamside alder bushes and trees, hard rains that intermittently put the river near flood stage, the lack of a firm rock bottom, the narrowness of the wa-

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terway, and the debris strewn sand bottom limited the success of that method, and my single landed fish for the the 4 days I was there was caught on a double fly arrangement attached to several heavy splitshot suspended under a bobber. Other than visiting a section of our country that I had not seen before, this trip was disappointing largely because I was unable to effectively use my spey casting technique

Bob Burdick

## Upper Yakima, April 5

My son Nathaniel and I fished with Bennett of Troutwater fly Shop. We were on the river at 10:00 and fished until 3:30 pm.



# Creel Notes

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The morning was bright, sunny and cold. the afternoon was bright, colder, and windy. Only two fish showed on the surface, although there was a BWO hatch at times.

We fished with Amy's ant as an indicator over several different size 12 bead head nymphs. It was slow going but we released two 19 inch

Continued on Page 5



# On the Fly

## The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

April 19, 2022



Welcome veterans to the VFW, or more exactly, welcome veteran members of the WFFC to the Mercer Island VFW. Another first for my years in the WFFC; first it was the College Club, then the STC, and now the VFW. Table mates Pete Baird and Bill Redmond remember the Tye Club and a couple other joints, but before that, the Meany Hotel. No one alive and eating pizza tonight remembers places earlier.

Our table walk down memory lane led to recalling the fateful vote to allow anyone into the club. Three veterans of the vote shared the trauma and joy of the whole experience to some wide eyed newbys. Alls fair in love and war, and that brings us back to the VFW. Why have we moved? Well, if you've been reading the various Riffles from our President, Mr. Spratt noted in his opening remarks that we were saving money. We are also getting better options for food and booze at reasonable prices (\$5 dollar beers!!).

We can look forward to Chopakapa in June: keep in touch with the outings section. Speaking of new members, Dan Henke, VP for membership, took over the microphone to introduce guests starting with his wife, Adair, who took new pictures of members for the roster. Other wives joined their husbands. From there, a herd of new members took the stage to be recognized,

quite a backlog due to cancelled live meetings. Pete Baird did the honors of briefing the new members of the pride and purpose off the WFFC. Dan added the gifts to new members that all of us treasure. Welcome!!



Bill Neal briefed us on the fly tying competition and asked for sign ups. Remote members need to get in touch with Bill to get in on the action.

Fishing reports started with President Spratt fishing on Lenice, Rocco got some action in the Potholes area, first from the wind, next from tics, so they headed to Dry Falls where they had success healthy, fat fish, from 14" to 20" on Chronomids at 9' of water. Robert had to go all the way to Cabo San Lucas to get skunked on the fly rod in cold water. Jim MacRoberts joined 35 anglers from Project Healing Waters on Lake Langlois. Planted fish don't take to the fly well since they prefer pellets, but if one persists and doesn't up out too complicated a fly, one can catch fish. Kurt Peterson caught the skawla hatch in Montana. Bob Burdick, the world's greatest fly tier, was so desperate for Steelhead that he went all the way to Michigan to ply the waters of the Pierre Marquette. With 30,000 steelheads

in the water, he figured he couldn't fail, yet fail he did. Frustrated with stylish casting, he geared up, threw on some weight and some bobbers, and hooked one. Dan Henke fared a lot better in the same venue, catching 3-4 a day using the local

techniques (sans bobber). Craig Crumbaker and Mike Wearne received "the Volunteer of the Year" award for their efforts in ministering fly tying and fly fishing to the unhouused.

And without further adieu, our

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### 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.

## ‘On the Fly’ Continued

man with low down fishing and hunting in Okanogan County, Ryan Fortier, the WDFW District Fisheries Biologist. He started with an overview of the County. Since they stock fry instead of full grown hatchery fish, they had trouble last year in efficient stocking due to wild fires, disease, heat, and unbelievable crowds. In 2022, they have worked on infrastructure (e.g. more people means more toilets), rehabbing lakes, and trying desperately to keep a small population of migrating salmon and steelhead, a task Ryan has slim hopes for. Summer Chinook was the rare successful return, albeit still a challenge.

Now to the lakes. Your best asset is the Pacific Northwest Recreation map Series of Okanogan Country which has a solid record of roads and all the lakes. I’ll give you a few highlights:

- Big/Little Twin looks good with improvements to the aerator.
- Davis and Cougar Lakes are open year round for rainbow.
- The Methow River fishes best from the Winthrop barn down to the Burma Road Bridge. Fish high for quantity, fish low for finicky fish of size.
- Starzman Lakes is the earliest ice-off of the lakes, but the hardest to find. Hard to find, hard to get to, but good fishing early in the season before the weeds take over. Hint: leeches.
- Aeneas Lake, “the Big Twin of the Limebelt area” boasts quality fish with a strong holdover.
- Chopaka. Ryan’s goal for this storied lake is “to not screw it up”. He recommends taking the left hand route up (not the Chopaka grade) when logging trucks are



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active.

• Bonaparte has record setting Tiger Trout along with a good population of Kokanee.

Ryan took questions, or more accurately described as testimonials, and members shared their wide experience with lakes in this area. Ryan spoke about efforts to repair

habitat, including adding beavers, which has slow perceivable benefits, but beats doing nothing.

If you have questions for Ryan or if you want to help him with fishing reports: 509-754-6424, or [Ryan.Fortier@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Ryan.Fortier@dfw.wa.gov).



## Fishing Reports Continued

and one 20 inch rainbows.

The take was quiet but the struggle aggressive. We had hoped to see skwalas but saw only two. Getting on the water again was a great treat.

Hugh Clark

## Lake Lenore, April 22

Lake Lenore: Ron Tsheder and I fished at the bay in the north end. Before the weather ran us off we managed one fish each both over 20". [See below for the new sign]

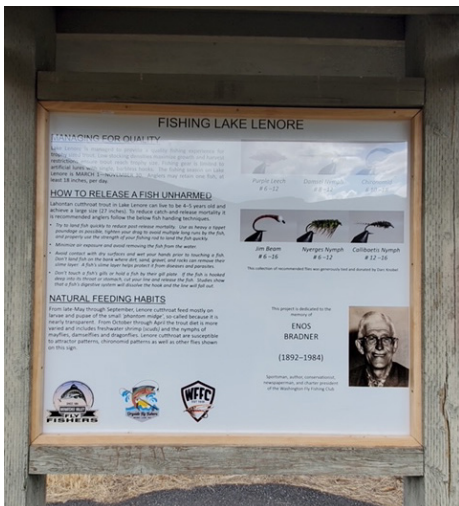
Ron caught his on a wollybugger with some flash in the tail and mine was caught on a black Carey Special. We were using dry lines as the bay is shallow and still very cold.

On opening day I decided to go to Rat Lk to avoid crowds. Boy did that work, NO ONE SHOWED UP ALL DAY .

I had the lake to myself. Caught about 20 all 11 to 13" so no hold-overs.

What really worked was a small #14 blood worm pattern on 18" of trailing leader behind a hot bead woolybugger. I was using a type 6 sinking line as the water is still very cold.

Chuck Ballard



## Upper Yakima

My son the expert blew into town and spent four hours plotting where to fish and how. We drove to Roslyn to the fly shop and he picked out stuff for us. We took bikes and stopped across the free-way and bike a mile east or so to the confluence of the Cle Elum and Yakima.

There were big rainbows sitting on redds on the Yak. We got nothing at the confluence area, but the Yak was wadable, so we walked upstream, crossing several times. At a large tree fall he fished above and I below. Two nymphs on a little bobber and he landed an 18 in. 'bow. We walked further up to another good spot and he landed a 19 in. 'bow.

We walked further up the river and found a nice seam. He promised me the next fish, and was showing me how I should make the first cast. You know what happened! He hooked and landed a 20 in. 'bow! After that, many apologies and we bushwhacked to the John Wayne trail, walked about a mile to the bikes, biked back and drove home.

Tom got several other small trout, and three giants. The last was his second largest ever. Me? I found the water technically difficult, fishing the same gear. A tangle, a couple of missed takes, and trouble managing the line to get a true dead drift, while the expert didn't even know how hard the water was for the non-expert. Still, an epic day!

Paul Buehrens

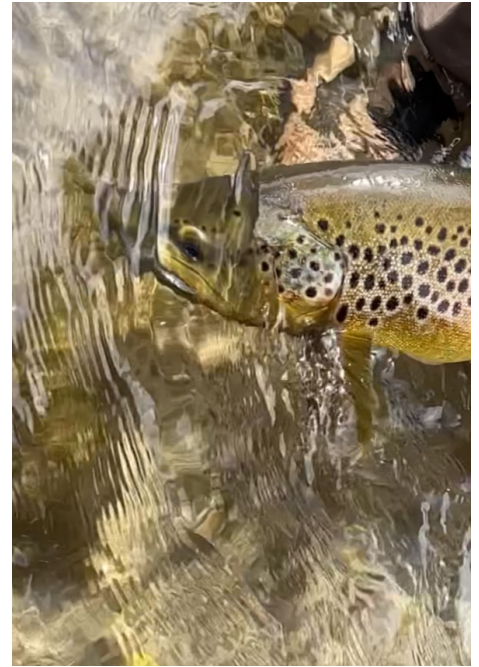


Photo Entitled "Let 'em go" by Neal Hoffberg, Montana

## Fly Casting Fair August 13, Montlake Terrace

In 1965 the club helped establish the International Federation of Fly Fishers (Now called Fly Fishing International) and WFFC members are still active in Federation affairs and helping with the "Fly Casting Fair" they are holding this coming August 13th at the nearby Mountlake Terrace Lake Ballinger Park.

The day-long event will offer a walk-in casting clinic, a skills development course and four detailed classes in specific casting skills taught by FFI certified instructors. In addition, FFI will host some of the best fly tiers in the Pacific Northwest in a rotating series of tying sessions. There also will be information and programs for FFI's Women Connect, FFI Youth Programs and displays by Project Healing Waters that serves disabled veterans.

Want help solving that annoying tailing loop problem? Want to figure out the double-haul or develop a better roll cast? Bring your questions to the walk-in clinic and spend time with a Certified FFI Casting Instructor. The process will be simple. Bring your own rod. Stop at the registration desk when you arrive and describe what you want

to learn, or the problem you want to address. You will be matched with an instructor either individually or in groups of 2 or 3 to work on the skill.

To keep us all on our toes, we will have a coffee truck on the site in the morning and a taco truck for lunch and refreshments in the afternoon. Except for the detailed classes in specific casting skills, the program will be free.

For the best experience, register for one of the four detailed classes in specific casting skills. Those 90-minute sessions - two in the morning and two in the afternoon - will provide you with the concise instruction that FFI is known for. Classes will be delivered by Certified FFI Casting Instructors.

The fee for each class will be \$35 per person. Attendance will be limited. Go to the [WSCFF.ORG](http://WSCFF.ORG) website for more Fly Casting Fair information and to reserve a spot in the Casting workshops with:

Ryan Smith, Avid Anglers – Beginning fly Casting

Molly Semenik – Women’s Fly Casting

Thomas Cammarata – Advanced Fly Casting

Pat Peterman – Managing the Walk-in Casting Clinic

The Walk-in Casting Clinic will be free to FFI members and the public.

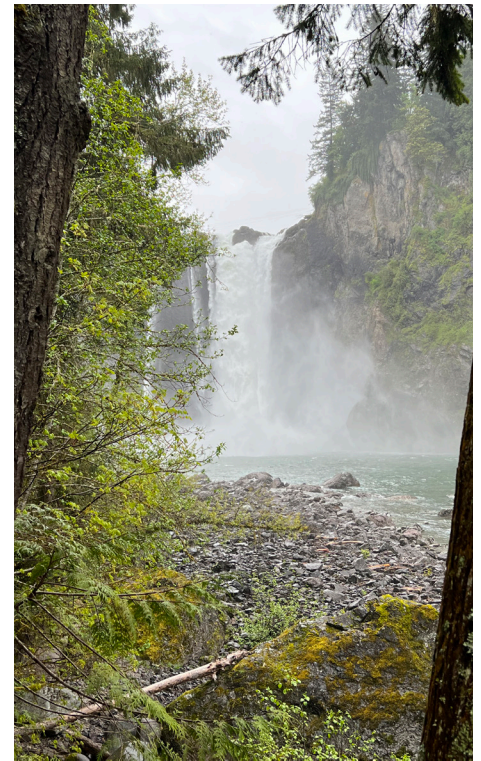
Fly Tying demonstrations will also be held at the Fair with experts including:

Jim Gerguson – Buszsk/Nelson award receipt

Dareld Thompson – Featured Tire in Art Lingen’s Book “Syd Glassco”

Gather your friends and fellow club members and join us at the Fly Fishing Fair

Hope to see you at the Fly Fishing Fair - Jim Goedhart, Past WFFC President



Snoqualmie Falls during spring flow. Photo by David Ehrich



Washington Fly Fishing Club  
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## May 17, 2022

**May Meeting in the Flesh on May 17@ 5:30 pm - 7 pm**

**The May 17th WFFC Dinner Meeting will be at the Mercer Island VFW Hall with Devin Olsen speaking to us via zoom about how to become a Tactical Fly Fisher.**

**A President’s Dinner Choice, for \$25, will be served with a Bartender serving beer and wine drinks for a \$5 donation.**

**Location: The Mercer Island Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5760 is at 1836 72nd Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040.**

**Parking: Options include use of 15 regular and one handicapped-designated parking space in front of the clubhouse; additional parking for events allowed on agreement with Roanoke Inn management, and; up to 40 additional public access parking spaces available at nearby Lid Park. “Reserved for Special Event Parking” signs will be placed in front of the clubhouse prior to an event to reserve parking spaces.**