

# Creel Notes from the



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



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

Member of



MMXXII No. 8

November, 2022

## President's Riffle

Winter is here, and it is starting to get wet and cold, but don't let that stop you from fishing.



The Yakima River temperatures and flow have been pretty good, and you will find fish using nymphs, small dries (bwo's), and streamers. Nymphing has been the most consistent in the last two weeks. I have also seen some excellent fish caught at Rocky Ford Creek in Eastern Washington. With the bump in the rain, the coho are moving up the rivers. Also, be on the lookout for chum salmon. I hope everyone is getting a chance to get out and hit our local waters.

Brian O'Keefe will join us as our guest speaker for the November WFFC Monthly Meeting. Brian will be discussing fly fishing in Oregon. I look forward to seeing you all on November 15th at the VFW Hall on Mercer Island. Remember, the Wet Fly starts at 5:30 pm, the Dinner at 6:00 -6:30, and the meeting begins promptly at 7:00 pm.

The annual Holiday Fundraiser Dinner is now less than a month away! The event will be held at the VFH Hall on Mercer Island on December 13th. Registration is now open online on the WFFC webs site. We will be limited to 85 guests this year, so please

register early for this fantastic event.

The virtual auction will open on December 9th and run until the Holiday Dinner on the 13th. The club has arranged many excellent items to bid on within the virtual online auction. The LIVE AUCTION is packed with exceptional items for you to bid on LIVE and in person at the event on December 13th. Raffle Tables will be set up at the event, including the ever-popular Fly Box Raffle!

Tickets will be available at the door the night of the event. Register now, mark your calendars, and help us raise money to fund our club and our education/conservation efforts for next year.

I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting and again in December for the Holiday Fundraiser.!

Tight Lines,  
Dave Spratt  
WFFC President

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# Fishing Reports

## Wet Buns Outing Offers Anglers Windy Fishing and Fine Cooking

by Chuck Ballard

Well for the first time in several years no one got "wet buns". The wind, that limited one's boating and shore casting, made catching anything a challenge for most.

I hooked up with Paul Breuhens

Mark Pratt, Chef Pat Becker and Mike Moscynski prepare dinner (right) and below the fruits of their labor are enjoyed by members seated left to right: Mike Nolan, Mark, Ben Davidson, Shelly Scheff and her husband. Below right, Tom Neu and Paul Breuhens dig into the



and we had a good day near Harstine Island. Between the two of us we hooked and released about a dozen fish up to 15".

A near by sea lion didn't help matters but we still had a good day.

Pat Becker did a great job with her staff of helpers with the "Kettle of fish". When Dave Schorsch gets well he now has a competitor for "Super Chef". The food and campfire was well attended and no one went home hungry .

One other thought is that this fishery is really year around so if there is a reasonable weather day this winter you should get out there and try it!

# Creel Notes

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

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# November Meeting

## November 15th, 2022 - VFW Hall Dinner Meeting

### Speaker Brian O’Okeefe

### November 15 @ 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

The November 15th WFFC Dinner Meeting will be at the Mercer Island VFW Hall with Brian O’Okeefe about the fly fishing in Oregon.

At age eight, Brian’s interest in fly fishing was born while spending summers in Montana with his grandparents. There he was taught the art of fly casting and fishing by his grandfather, a dry fly purist. From those first years fishing the waters of the Northwest and Montana, he has spent the majority of his free time fishing and taking advantage of all the outdoors has to offer. On family vacations, Brian would often go off alone to fish a nearby stream. His interest in photography began as a means to back up with pictures, what his family thought might be just “tall tales”.

Brian has traveled to some of the wildest and most remote angling destinations in the world, including Bikini Atoll, the Seychelles, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tonga, Cuba and Kashmir. He has also traveled to more accessible locations, such as: the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Chile, New Zealand, Christmas Island and more. In many of these locations he again chooses to venture off the beaten path, hiking, floating, sea-kayaking or taking a Zodiac into the backcountry.

Brian lives with his wife and fishing partner, Judith in Powell Butte, Oregon and continues to work as an angling and outdoor photographer, having had photographs published in periodicals such as: the Los Angeles Times; the New York Times; the Miami Herald; USA Today and many others. He has had cover shots in: Field & Stream; Outdoor Life; Fly Fisherman; Fly, Rod and Reel; Fly Fishing Salt Waters; Fly and Fish Magazine; Outside Magazine and Men’s Journal. In addition to photography, Brian works as a tackle rep for Scientific Anglers in Washington, Oregon and Alaska.



Please register in advance for this event on the WFFC website. A President’s Dinner Choice, for \$25, will be served with a Bartender serving beer and wine drinks for a \$5 donation. Wet fly begins at 5:30 pm followed by dinner. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 pm.

Location: The Mercer Island Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5760 is located at 1836 72nd Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Please see the google map below for directions.

#### 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 Conditions on the Eastside

### Allan Peterson, Swede's Fly Shop, Spokane

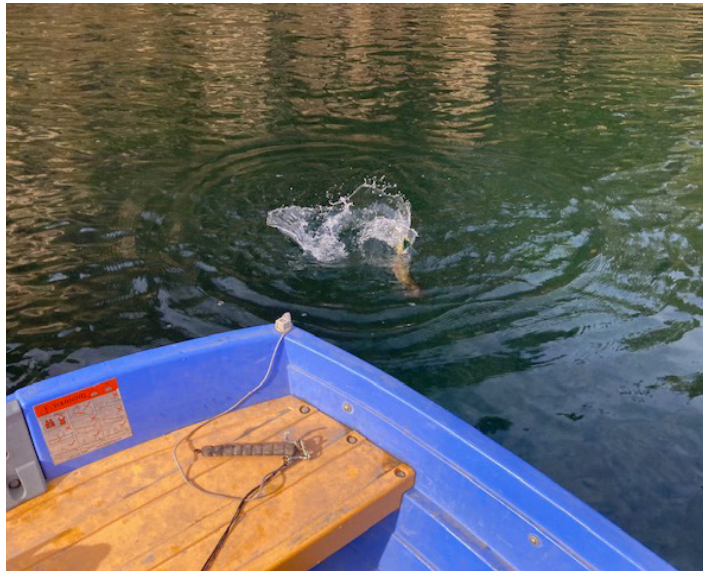
Excellent fly fishing for rainbows, browns and cutthroat trout has been on the increase now that cooler temperatures prevail and fall months are seeing more activity in feeding especially for those who like fishing the terrestrial patterns like hoppers, beetles and ant patterns in the Spokane River and North Fork Coeur d' Alene River, about 1.5 hour drive from Spokane.

The West Slope Cutts are averaging 14 to 24 inches in the NF-CDA and the red band Rainbows are typically 16 to 22 inches in the Spokane River, taking stonefly nymphs and streamers fished in the deeper sections of the lower river.

The lakes around Spokane are, for the most part, fishing well using patterns like Swede's Electric Buggers and Olive Willy patterns stripped low and slow on fast sinking lines. Amber, Fish Trap, Bayley, McDowell and Yocum Lakes are all producing some great fall fishing with backdrops of amazing fall colors. The lower section of Long Lake near Little Falls fishes well for Brown Trout, not to mention Rock Lake south of Cheney that has Brown Trout usually in the lower 20 inch or more range, along with Rainbows and some Steelhead that were planted.

Swede's Fly Shop has personalized fly fishing maps for both the NFCDA, St. Joe and Clearwater drainages to point out best access and best sections to concentrate fly fishing.

Would really enjoy seeing some of the membership make an outing or trip this fall and have a chance to



Chuck Ballard hauls one in (left) on Green Lake near Omak.

Below, Ron Tsheder hunts for big ones on Aeneas Lake.

rekindle old acquaintances or meet new members.

## The Last Days of 2022 Regular Season

by Chuck Ballard

Met up with Ron Tsheder and John Callahan for some end of the regular season fishing.

Ron and I fished Aeneas on a beautiful sunny calm day. The recent plant of 12" browns kept us busy and Ron managed to get one 18" rainbow.

Two days later John, Ron and I fished Green lake west of Omak. The wind was really bad and

although I managed 20 14" fish by noon, Ron and John decided it was just too rough to stay so they headed home.

John had a couple of fish one 16" and Ron had a couple of smaller ones before they left at noon.

I decided gas was too expensive to leave so I went back out after they left. What a good decision! I caught 15 more and they were 18" up to 20". What I didn't know was these fish had just been planted from the Wells hatchery a few days before and they were in a tight school that stayed together all afternoon! Hopefully some of these fish will make it to spring .



# Christmas Party

## December 13 Holiday Fundraiser Donations Request

This year we will be holding the Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser on December 13th at the Mercer Island VFW Hall. Here Yee, come one and all for a great time!

The festivities will include a top notch served dinner, a hosted bar with auction items to bid on, a chance at winning raffle items and the opportunity to “raise your paddle” to support the Foundation’s Conservation work.

We need your help to make this year’s fundraiser a success by donating any one of the following items:

- Artwork
- Guided Fishing Trips

- Fishing Vacation Getaway Stays
- Fly Plates
- Fly Tying Gear
- Fly Fishing Gear
- Fly Rods and Reels

Each year the funds raised at the Holiday Fundraiser supports the WFFC’s Conservation, Education, Outings and Dinner Meetings Speakers events.

If you are able to donate an item to this year’s fundraiser, please contact Jim Goedhart by phone (425-985-2316) or by email (JLGoedhart@gmail.com) to make acquisition arrangements.

Thank you in advance for your help in making this year’s fundraiser a success – Dave Spratt, WFFC President



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“Fall fly fishing is always about more than fishing” Tioga Pass Sunset - October 2022 by Neal Hoffberg