

Creel Notes from the



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



Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXXIII No. 4

May, 2023

President's Riffle

Greetings, all WFFC Members. Our chats about the Club's mission and administration continue this month with a proposal to amend our bylaws.



As the Club has emerged from the rigors of Covid, many of our members remain reluctant to attend our meetings. This is understandable, of course, especially in light of the viral aftermath of that meeting. But that reluctance presents the Club with a difficulty. We need a quorum at member meetings to conduct Club business. We often do not have enough members in attendance to reach the quorum number, presently 25% of the Club's voting members, composed of active members and senior members. While that may seem like a modest percentage, we have not been able to routinely achieve a quorum. At our February meeting, we needed a quorum to approve the annual budget. We made the quorum by one, and only because the Club's officers spent a week begging members to attend. At the April meeting we needed a quorum to approve some off-budget donations to other organizations that the Board had recommended. We didn't make it. (Those donations will be the subject of a later e-mail ballot.)

We aren't alone in this issue. In talking with the officers of other fly clubs, they all are experiencing the same issue. In fact, historically, non-profits, es-

pecially clubs, have had notorious problems achieving quorums to enable them to conduct business. It has been a constant problem. Because of that history, our enabling statute, the Nonprofit Corporations Act, allows us to have a minimum quorum of 10% of voting members. With that in mind, the Board has approved a change in the quorum requirements set out in our bylaws, to 10% of voting members. Here is the text of the proposed amendment, changing two sections:

Article IV, Section 4 of the Club's bylaws is hereby deleted and restated in its entirety as follows:

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum shall be ten percent (10%) of the voting members.

Article VII, Section 2 of the Club's bylaws is hereby deleted and restated in its entirety as follows:

Section 2. Elections. Election of officers and Trustees shall be made by written ballot of members

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Education

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy Enjoys their 22nd Year

by John Gravendyk

Panhandle Lake Camp near Shelton, WA is the sight for the year's academy. It starts on Sunday June 18 and ends Saturday June 24. Though the program cost per student is

\$2,200, the tuition for a student is \$500 for the all inclusive (including room and board) week long program. The Academy has a full roster of students signed up at this point (16 boys and girls). There is a wait list currently of 3 or 4 kids for 2023.

We have a dozen presenters lined up and 15 or so volunteers who will help out in various roles. Molly Semenik (FFI Master Casting Instructor) will be providing casting instruction the students and will be with us the entire week. Olympia TU Chapter

President J. Michelle Swope will also be leading a class on fly tying as she did in 2022.

We are still looking for more volunteers. Interested parties can log onto flyfish.academy or nwyeffa.com, and click on "volunteer" at the top of the homepage. Fill out the form and we will be in contact.

Donations in any amount to help run the program are most appreciated. You may also earmark your contribution of \$500 toward providing tuition to a deserving young person (named or un-named) or a specific scholarship amount if less than full tuition. Please remit your contribution by check to:

NW Youth Conservation
& Fly Fishing Academy
% John Gravendyk
818 291st Ave NE
Carnation, WA 98014

The Academy can be a life changing experience for young people as they develop an enlightened understanding of stewardship, conservation and fly fishing. Please help us preserve this program!

Fly Casting Fair

The FFI Fly Casting Fair is back at Ballinger Park in the Mountlake Terrace neighborhood of Seattle and we hope you will join us.

The day-long event April 29 will offer a Walk-In Casting clinic, a skills development course and 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. New this year will be two classes on Spey Casting—both single handed and double handed spey. Also new this year will be a Youth Fly Casting Class that is free for kids 10 to 14 years of age, and an Introduction to Fly Tying Class for all ages. Registration is limited, so please head to the Washington State Council FFI Website at WSCFFI.ORG for details and online registration.

In addition to instruction, you can explore ideas about fishing with our conservation and education partners who will be at the event as well. The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy will have representatives at the event to discuss their week-long summer camp for teenagers. The Coastal Cutthroat Coalition that works to understand and conserve Puget Sound's native trout will have representatives at the Fair to talk about their latest research and Project Healing Waters that serves disabled veterans will be there as well.

Want help solving that annoying tailing loop? Want to figure out the

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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.

Fishing Reports

Isaac Lakes

by Bob Burdick

On April 29th and 30th I fished the lower of the two Isaac Lakes near Coulee City in Eastern Washington with a group of 8 guys, 2 of us from the WFFC. As many of you know these two lakes are private and have at least a 20 year history of being stocked with many large fish. The lakes are currently managed by Darce Nobel, owner of the Desert Angler in Ephrata, are open on a Tuesday, Thursday, and weekend schedule, and offer superior boat fishing for \$315 per day.

Weather conditions that weekend consisted of bright sunshine, air temperatures of 70-80 degrees and intermittent light wind. Water temperature was 50 degrees. In addition we were informed by WFFC member Denny Westover, whose group fished the lake the weekend of April 22 and 23, that blood worms or variants of blood worms were the most effective flies that weekend as might be expected with our late Spring.

As a group we did moderately well with a wide range from a high of 17 fish landed per day to 1 depending on experience. In the week since the Westover party fished the lakes the maturation of chironomids had progressed from 90% in the blood worm stage, to almost a total shift to chironomid pupa, size 14-16 (as indicated by stomach pumping samples) with 95% of the fish taken on size #14 pupa. Fishing under a bobber 1 or 2 feet off the bottom of the lake which was mostly 6-7 deep every-



where worked best. There was very little fly activity on the surface, and little to no bird activity. On both days the bite began about 11 am and tapered off to only occasional strikes after 3:30 pm. Fish were uniformly large (18-21 inches), active, mint bright, often aerial and chunky weighing I would guess between 4-6 pounds. An occasional fish of 25-26 inches was hooked, but none were landed.

MAY 7 2023, Greenlake Outing

by Chuck Ballard

President Danferd arrived Thursday evening and shortly after setting up camp was greeted with all night long lightning storm . Friday Mark Pratt and I arrived early in the morning greeted with light rain which lasted all day. Jim Young came in the afternoon.

Fishing turned out to be quite good for Mark and President Danferd. I was struggling to find fish that stayed hooked! Need bigger hooks!!!

The technique that was most effective was a slow sink line and either mayfly nymphs or small damsel nymphs .

Jim Young found a unique

Dan, Mark and Chuck enjoy Greenlake

colored damsel nymph was the charm ! He and everyone “except me” also had a good day on Saturday as well, even though the light rain kept up most of the day. No skunks and a few bigger holdovers were caught as well.

All and all it was a great time and it is a really beautiful place for an outing .

We did get lucky with the camping because the rainy weather and Cinco de Mayo Friday we had the camp to ourselves.

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 Reports

Seep Lakes

The Seep Lakes Outing on 4/29-30/23 was attended by Tom Neu and Denise, Kurt Peterson and Sheila, Mark Pratt, Ben Davidson, John Callahan, Linda, and me.



Most of us were staying at Mardon Resort except for Mark and Ben who were camping near Windmill Lake.

On Saturday we did a 1 ½ mile one way hike into one of the Seep Lakes and over 60 fish were caught with Ben earning the top rod rights.

Fish were caught by all in the 12" to 17" size. We gathered around a roaring campfire on Saturday and enjoyed an expansive view of the Pot Holes Reservoir from the campsite.

On Sun-

day John, Tom, Linda and I did a 2-mile one way hike at the Pillar Widgeon Lake area where Tom saw a large rattlesnake. The other group that included Ben, Mark and Kurt returned to the lake fished the previous day. I caught one 18" trout and lost another in the Pillar Widgeon Lakes. Fishing was slower for the other group as well and fewer fish were caught. We

had fantastic blue-sky weather both days with the daytime temperature in the mid-80s. Hiking into the lakes with our float tubes strapped to our backs was hot but we quickly cooled down once we settled into our fishing craft in the water.

Tom and I fished for a couple



of hours on Blythe Lake on Sunday evening where we hooked and self-released one fish each. The gusty wind made it difficult for fishing and slowed our return to the launch site.

Eastern Washington Lake Health Report

I received this fish report this afternoon from Ryan Fortier. Please take a moment to read.

I'm hoping you can get the word out to anglers who are venturing to Big Twin and Chopaka lakes in the next few weeks. Both lakes exhibited large fish kills this winter/spring as evident by abundant carcasses revealed in the shallows immediately following ice off. Investigations have revealed them to be large, but not complete.

Chopaka lake was surveyed last week and found to still have an abundance of RBT, especially in the 12'-16" range. There was some lacking in the 17"+ size range, but the loss of the other RBT should give them plenty of space to bulk up quickly. Anglers checked during the surveys were found to still be catching RBT, but still with the usual cold water sluggishness.

Catchable plants from Davis and Blue Lake (Sinlahekin) were diverted to Big Twin in addition to the usual plant when it was revealed in early surveys that they had a robust overwintered population. Early fishing at Big Twin was still slow despite the plants, but water temps rising last week resulted in some reports of potential hold-overs (15"+) that were unlikely to have been part of the recent stocking.

I doubt Big Twin will have he

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Fly Casting Fair Continued

The Skills Development Course will be back this year as well. The course is a fun and easy way to test and develop your cast at your own pace either with the help of an instructor or in casual competition with friends. Like the name says, the course is aimed at helping casters improve aspects of their cast from a reach mend to a double haul. The course also will be set up for participants to challenge themselves to reach Bronze, Silver and Gold casting levels and receive FFI recognition for the accomplishment.

To keep us all on our toes, we will have coffee available for sale throughout the day and lunch for sale beginning at 11:30.

For the best experience, register for one of the detailed classes in specific casting skills. Those 90-minute sessions—in the morning and afternoon—will provide you with the concise instruction that FFI is known for. Classes will be delivered by Certified FFI Casting Instructors. Ryan Smith and Craig Koeppler will cover Beginning Fly Casting, Molly Semenik and Todd Somsel will teach Spey Casting. Marion Hiller and Ruth Sims will lead Women's Fly Casting, Tom Cammarata will teach Intermediate Fly Casting, Don Simonson will lead Advanced Fly Casting, Pat Peterman will manage the Walk-in Casting Clinic and Jim Black will lead the Skills Development Course.

These are among the best casting instructors anywhere, right in the Northwest.

And if you are interested in fly tying, we've got you covered too. There will be a series of excellent tiers rotating through stations all day in the Lakeview Room in the lodge adjacent to the casting fields. We will have some of the most accomplished fly tiers in the Northwest and the

world, including Dareld Thompson who is the featured tier in Art Lingen's Book "Syd Glassco", Atlantic Salmon fly tier Mike McCoy and accomplished still-water tier Kuni Masuda. There will be ample seating to watch these and other tiers work and time to talk with them as well. For beginning tiers, Instructors Sam Matalone and Vern Jeremica are offering classes to get you off on the right foot.

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

Ballinger Park is an ideal place for an event of this kind. It's in the center of the North Sound area where hundreds of FFI members live. The site was a former golf course. It has a large club house, kitchen and meeting area, all of which will be available to us. Coffee in the morning, lunch at noon – we've got you covered. The parking lot accommodates more than 150 cars and trucks. Enter through the club house and beyond it to the south there is an expansive open lawn leading down to Lake Ballinger. Spey Casting Classes will be held on the water at the beach at the south end of the lawns.

Once you enter the clubhouse from the parking area, there will be a sign in desk. If you have registered for a class you can check your reservation and the time and place on the field where the class will be held. If you simply want to work on a casting skill at the Walk-in Clinic, head to the reception area for the clinic and inquire there about the instructors available and when. Friends can arrive at their leisure and challenge themselves and one another on the Skills Development Course. There may be a wait to begin the course, so you can duck into the building and get a cup of coffee while you wait. While there, take some time to check out the Lakeview Room where there will be fly tying throughout the day.

FFI director and membership chairman Larry Gibbs will have an FFI membership table. There will be information on all 17 Washington affiliate clubs of FFI.

Join us. If you care about recovery of salmon and steelhead in our state, if you care about inviting kids and families into our sport, if you want to welcome women and veterans into our sport, and if you want the opportunity to fly fish for all fish in all waters, FFI is your partner. Join Washington FFI on April 29 at Ballinger Park in Mountlake Terrace.

Outings

Upcoming Outing Updates

Lake Hannon Outing, 5/20/23: The gate to the lake should be unlocked at 8am. We will have a warm chili lunch available around 12:30pm and bring some cornbread or desserts to share. The Club will provide non-alcoholic beverages, chili bowls and spoons.

For more information about the Lake Hannon Outing and to sign up to attend, please click on the following link to do so:

<https://wffc.com/event/may-20-2023-wffc-spring-lake-hannon-outing/>

Leech Lake Outing, 6/24-25/23: You should reserve a Condo at the White Pass Village Inn very soon because the Olympic Fly Club out of Edmunds will also have their outing on the same weekend.

Ben Davidson has booked unit #23 and he may be looking for roommates to fill up the condo. Call them at (509) 672-3131 and mention that you are with the WFFC to receive the one-night stay rate.

Please sign up on the WFFC website or call me to attend the Outing as I need a count for the Club provided food. For more information about the Leech Lake Outing, please click on the following link to do so:

<https://wffc.com/event/june-24-25-2023-wffc-leech-lake-outing/>

Eastern Washington Lake Health Report Continued from Page 4

remarkable year it did last year, but it shouldn't be dismal. Little Twin's new aerator did get the job done in its first tough winter with the reward of some good size RBT.

Big Buck (Frost Road) and Aspen lakes were stocked two weeks ago so exploring could be a good venture this spring if Big Twin isn't meeting your expectations. I have only heard a pair of reports on Campbell Lake so if anyone has some recent photos and reports, I'd love to from you.

Tight lines to all!

'Riffle' Continued from Page One

present at the November meeting each year. The membership electing the officers shall consist of 10% or more of the voting membership, but in no event less than 15 members.

The nominee receiving the largest number of votes for each office shall be elected.

Absent any floor nominating candidate(s) or multiple nominations from the Nominating Committee, a voice vote is to be taken regarding the committee nominated slate.

We will put this amendment forward for a vote of the membership at the June meeting. And, yes, we will need a quorum to adopt this amendment, at the present 25% level. So please attend.

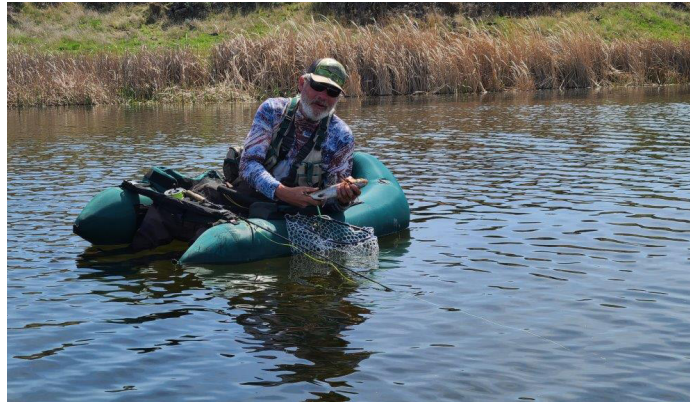
Enough admin, let's go fishing! The Club's outings have been great fun and great fishing. Show up, pitch in, have fun!



President Dan hooks and lands a holdover on Greenlake (see Fishing Reports)



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First comes the hard work of getting to remote Seep Lakes, then comes the victory: Mark Pratt hauls one in on the Seep Lakes Outing



Jim McRoberts helps veteran Johnny Strong land a trout at PHWFF fish outing May 6th in Fall City. Dick Brenning, b.g., gives expert advice to insure that no harm is done to the trout.